

The Morning Star

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NOTICE.

A four-page Supplement is published with this day's number of the MESSAGER, and will be delivered gratis with each copy of the paper. It contains our American news and an interesting variety of literary extracts.

Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 4-5, 1882.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

The cordial understanding between England and France, which has now lasted for nearly thirty years, has undergone some rude strains of late. International alliances are by no means merely affairs of sentiment, in order to be durable and fruitful they must be based on common interests and objects, on mutual respect and reciprocal advantage. England might wish well to France and France to England, but the feeling on both sides, however sincere, would not sustain an alliance in default of some more solid interests in common. Where are we to look at the present moment for that community of interests which cements the friendships of nations? It exists, no doubt, in the abstract, but its recognition on either side of the Channel is very far from doing reciprocal and equivalent. We went hand in hand with France in the Crimean war, and later on, England made some sacrifices for the sake of the alliance in the Chinese and Syrian expeditions. A cloud came for a time between the two nations in 1859, and there were faults on both sides, no doubt; but the friendship was renewed and consolidated by the Treaty of Commerce, which seemed for a long time to place the cordial relations between England and France beyond the reach of accident. Each country benefited through the vast development of commercial intercourse—France certainly not the least—and it seemed impossible that so potent a bond of union between two friendly and neighbouring States should ever be voluntarily severed. In spite of ministerial appearances we still believe it to be impossible. The negotiations have certainly not prospered so far, and the time is at hand when they must either be brought to a satisfactory conclusion or finally abandoned. The latter issue seems probable—indeed, almost inevitable—for the moment. England, indeed, can afford to accept it with complacency, so far as her commercial interests in general are concerned, for, though some of her trades and manufactures will suffer, and suffer heavily, for a time, yet the trade of England with France does not bear anything like the same proportion to the whole trade of the country as the French trade with England bears to the total trade of France. The greatest sufferer will, therefore, be France, as Frenchmen themselves are at last beginning to discern. But, apart from the injury to commercial interests, it cannot be doubted that the failure of the treaty negotiations will deal a severe blow to the cordiality of the Anglo-French alliance. The interests of the pocket are very sensitive, and when Englishmen find that France not only declines to trade with them, but treats their political and international interests with scant consideration, as she has seemed inclined to do of late, they will naturally begin to ask themselves whether, after all, the alliance is not somewhat of the nature of the one-sided friendship described by Aristotle, where one party gives exceedingly much and receives exceedingly little in return. Certainly England is free from reproach in the matter. She has shown herself ready to act with France and is only too anxious to trade with her. But action with France in the field of politics common to both has been not a little difficult, at any rate since the evil day when M. St. Hilaire was installed at the French Foreign Office. Even before that time we had found the hesitations and mutations of French policy capable of seriously impairing the action of the European concert. If the naval demonstration at Dulcigno was finally successful, it was mainly the action of France that brought it near to failure. The settlement of the Greek frontier question, again, was imperilled and postponed by the unaccountable vacillation and policy displayed by the French Government. These were both objects by which England set much store, and we certainly might have looked for a more cordial and sustained support from our friendly neighbour and ally. The whole affair of Tunis, again, has been conducted from the outset with a singular disregard of English views and susceptibilities on the subject. On the other hand, it cannot be said that England has been wanting in a loyal, not to say anxious, regard for the obligations imposed upon her by her desire for a cordial understanding with France. We have been content to follow the French lead in Egypt, certainly not because we regarded the interests of the two countries as identical or even commensurate, still less because we regarded the joint intervention as entirely politic or mainly because France was urgent to interfere and England was anxious for friendship with France. But friendship is apt to grow cold unless the terms are fairly equal and the advantages approximately reciprocal. If the protracted and disappointing negotiations concerning the commercial treaty have tended somewhat to chill the feeling of England towards France, it must be confessed that the policy attributed to M. Gambetta in regard to Egypt is likely rather to enhance than to diminish their effect. The policy of England towards Egypt was clearly defined in Lord Granville's last despatch. England desires to maintain the control as it exists at present, and so far as is consistent with its maintenance, to respect the independence of the Khedive's Government. She certainly has no wish either to extend the area of English and French interference in the internal affairs of the country, or to encourage the interference of any other European Power. We cannot but hope, therefore, that the Khedive will be able to maintain his authority or the disaffected leaders of the Egyptian army and to withstand the incessant intrigues by which, as we learn from our Correspondent at Constantinople, the Sultan is endeavouring to push his own interests in Egypt. But the people of England would view with serious apprehension any further interference with the internal affairs of Egypt. The idea of a joint Anglo-French military intervention would excite the

gravest misgivings and would only be entertained in any case with the utmost reluctance. We have already gone a long way with France in an enterprise of which we have never wholly approved and in which we have never acknowledged the interests of the two countries to be identical. Many Englishmen suffered from the confusion of English finance, but their Government never thought of taking their interests in charge until it was practically compelled to follow in the wake of France, which had yielded to the importunities of the French creditors of Egypt. Very few Englishmen, indeed, and certainly no English Government, would be prepared to go any further in the same direction; and yet it can hardly be doubted that if French or English troops were landed in Egypt at the present moment the determining motive for France would be rather the protection of the maintenance of order in Egypt. Order in Egypt is, at least, as secure now as it was in September, at the time of the revolt of Arabi Bey and the change of the Egyptian Ministry. If it is disturbed again, or if it is seriously threatened, it will be necessary, no doubt, to take measures for its maintenance, and this contingent necessity was fully acknowledged in Lord Granville's despatch. But the premature landing of foreign troops in Egypt would, in the present condition of the country, be the beginning not of tranquillity, but of disturbance, and might easily lead to ulterior complications of which no one could foretell the end. We may say, frankly and plainly, that the way to cement the long-standing alliance between England and France is not to expect England to follow the lead of France in enterprises common to both whenever France is anxious to move, while France is to hold herself free to desert England at a pinch, as she did at Dulcigno and in Greece, and is to make a favour of renewing a Commercial Treaty far more important to France than it is to England.

A STRANGE STORY.

The part which the Paris correspondent of the Times has played in the negotiations now going on between France and England with reference to Egypt is one which we should not have cared to attribute to him or any less well-informed authority than his own. On Monday last he told us that France and England had agreed on sending the Khedive a joint or identical Note announcing that, in the event of tranquillity being disturbed, or in any authority overturned, they were prepared to give him effective support to restore order and protect his authority by material co-operation; and he added that the two Governments had of course previously agreed on the mode of procedure in such a case, and the respective share of each of them. On Tuesday the Paris correspondent of the Daily Telegraph gave a very different version of the facts. It is true, he said, that M. Gambetta has prepared a strong Note with the object of despatching it to the French and English Consuls-General at Cairo, and that this Note has been submitted to Lord Granville; but the measure contemplated by M. Gambetta was so serious that the English Cabinet may be expected to weigh well all the consequences before agreeing to them. It appears from to-day's (Wednesday's) Times that this is precisely what has happened. M. Gambetta, the Paris correspondent says, is exceedingly anxious that the two Governments should at once come to an understanding about what is to be done in Egypt; and in order to hasten matters he has himself drawn up a draft of instructions to be addressed to the French and English agents at Cairo. This draft was forwarded some days ago to London, and it was expected that the project, being very intelligently conceived, and combining prudence with energy and resolution, would be promptly sent back with the adhesion of the English Government. Had the English Government done what they were expected to do, the identical instructions to the Consuls would have been communicated to the Khedive at a very unexpected moment, and would thus have made the greater impression alike in the East and in Europe. The secret was not so well kept, however, but that other Cabinets, little disposed to facilitate the task of France and England, have for some days had a more or less accurate idea of it. Indeed, the Porte itself has been informed of the proposed joint intervention—"not, indeed, by its direct representatives in Paris or London, but through a more indirect channel, and one more calculated to impress the Ottoman Government"—i.e., Germany. The possession of the secret by other Powers was "evidenced by symptoms of a desire to engage in negotiations on the Egyptian question." These circumstances—"it was deemed that the deliberation with which the English Cabinet seemed disposed to consider the draft instructions" might expose the two Governments to outside interference. When the Times correspondent says "it was deemed," he obviously meant the words "by M. Gambetta" to be supplied. It is not likely that the English Government would wish their own deliberations to be hurried by a premature disclosure of the subject of them, though it is quite conceivable that the French Government might wish the English Cabinet to be stimulated to more prompt action. "It was therefore considered," M. Gambetta being again understood, "both more discreet and more straightforward at once to inform the public of the accord being prepared and doubtless at this moment arrived at between the two Powers." M. Gambetta was so convinced of the excellence of his draft that he felt sure that the English Government would consent to make it their own, and that he would consequently be doing them a kindness by hurrying them into doing at once what they were certain to do in the end. "Hence it seemed," to M. Gambetta, understood, as before, "that the moment had come for announcing the resolutions of France and England, and for notifying to the rest of Europe that it need not trouble itself with the question of supplying the inaction of those two Governments. Unfortunately, there were no resolutions of France and England in existence; for the deliberation with which the English seemed disposed to consider the draft instructions" had made it impossible to arrive at any. It is not impossible, however, by means of the press to announce resolutions before they are in existence; and this was the expedient which M. Gambetta, after due re-

lection, thought it best to take. The announcement that the English Cabinet had approved of a draft which is only considering, "so far from being an indiscretion," was the deliberate result of a well-inspired purpose." If M. Gambetta, wishing to force the hand of the English Government, had made use of the *Journal Officiel* or the *Republique Française*, it would have called for no remark from us. It is not for Englishmen to judge the standard of diplomatic propriety which it pleases a French Minister to set up for himself. But when he employs the correspondent of an English newspaper as his instrument in forcing the hand of the English Government, and yet it can hardly be doubted that if French or English troops were landed in Egypt at the present moment the determining motive for France would be rather the protection of the maintenance of order in Egypt. Order in Egypt is, at least, as secure now as it was in September, at the time of the revolt of Arabi Bey and the change of the Egyptian Ministry. If it is disturbed again, or if it is seriously threatened, it will be necessary, no doubt, to take measures for its maintenance, and this contingent necessity was fully acknowledged in Lord Granville's despatch. But the premature landing of foreign troops in Egypt would, in the present condition of the country, be the beginning not of tranquillity, but of disturbance, and might easily lead to ulterior complications of which no one could foretell the end. We may say, frankly and plainly, that the way to cement the long-standing alliance between England and France is not to expect England to follow the lead of France in enterprises common to both whenever France is anxious to move, while France is to hold herself free to desert England at a pinch, as she did at Dulcigno and in Greece, and is to make a favour of renewing a Commercial Treaty far more important to France than it is to England.

DEATH OF MR. BERNAL OSBORNE.

Mr. Ralph Bernal Osborne died on Wednesday evening at Bestwood Lodge, the seat of his son-in-law, the Duke of St. Albans, near Nottingham. The following biographical notice of the deceased gentleman is taken from the *Daily Telegraph*:—The death of Mr. Ralph Bernal Osborne awakens quite as widespread an interest as if it had occurred at a moment when the lamented gentleman occupied a seat in Parliament. Born in 1814, or, perhaps, two or three years earlier, as Mr. Osborne was in the habit of jokingly admitting, when pressed about his exact age by contemporaries, like Sir John Stanley Errington and Lord Vivian, who had entered the army about the same time, he himself—the late Member for Waterford, which was the last of many constituencies that he represented in the House of Commons, was no ordinary man. It is too much the fashion to speak of Parliamentary humorists, who have won part of their reputation by a good deal of wit and sarcasm, as levelling on occasion alike at grave Ministers of State and at obscure unofficial Members of the House, as though they owed their success chiefly to misanthropy and audacity. The truth, however, is that Mr. Osborne was a genuine humorist, and his wit and sarcasm were employed, as like-inventive, according to the well-known definition of Lord Beaconsfield—"great ornaments of debate," demanding to be successful, extensive knowledge, fine taste, and a natural talent. Mr. Osborne was a humorist, and his wit and sarcasm were employed, as like-inventive, according to the well-known definition of Lord Beaconsfield—"great ornaments of debate," demanding to be successful, extensive knowledge, fine taste, and a natural talent. Mr. Osborne was a humorist, and his wit and sarcasm were employed, as like-inventive, according to the well-known definition of Lord Beaconsfield—"great ornaments of debate," demanding to be successful, extensive knowledge, fine taste, and a natural talent.

most distinguished Ministers, and especially Sir James Graham, that the Member for Middlesex became a power in Parliament. His light and easy banter, and the dexterity with which he extracted fun from every subject that he handled, conducted to make Mr. Osborne's speeches generally popular in the country, and having sat for ten years as Member for Middlesex, he had no difficulty in obtaining a new seat at Dover when the general election of 1857 came round. In the Ministry formed by Lord Aberdeen in December, 1852, Mr. Bernal Osborne accepted office, for the first and only time in his life, as Secretary of the Admiralty, under Sir James Graham, against whom many of his liveliest diatribes had been launched in Parliament. His tenure of office, for the prosaic details of which he had little aptitude or taste, was not long continued, and when he reappeared, as member for Dover, in 1857, his position as a Parliamentary Independent, with his hand against every man and a jest or epigram ready for every occasion, became more sharply accentuated and defined. He lost his seat at Dover in April, 1857, to re-enter Parliament in August of the same year as member for Liskeard. Having resigned his seat for the Cornish borough in 1863, Mr. Osborne remained out of Parliament until he was sent there once more by Nottingham in the May of 1866. Returned for the city of Waterford in 1870, Mr. Osborne failed four years later to hold his seat, and had the mortification of seeing his name struck from the list of Members of Parliament. He was, however, chosen in his stead. He told his friends, upon returning from the Irish election in 1874, that he would infinitely prefer facing the Nottingham "lamb" to offering himself again to a Waterford constituency. His absence from Parliament, where he had made for himself a distinct and peculiar position, was greatly missed, and the belief was generally held that a seat would soon be found for him. In this expectation, however, he was disappointed, and he was doomed to be a disappointed man, and his place in Parliament knew him no more. The charms of social life in London compensated him in some measure for his exclusion from the House of Commons, and the marriage of his second daughter to the Duke of Devonshire in 1875 was the source of happiness on all sides, and of personal satisfaction to himself. Much of his time was spent, when he was in the country, at Bestwood Park, where he expired; but in London he had the West-end and was more than welcomed as a guest at the hospitable tables of his many friends. Dividing his time between the Reform Club, of which he had for years been a popular member, and the houses of acquaintances, who were always glad to receive him, and to listen to his witty and sarcastic remarks, Mr. Bernal Osborne during the last few years of his life found himself little in harmony with the foreign policy of the Liberal party. His keen criticisms were always, however, tempered with a genial glow, and his sarcasm was as much directed at his own party as at the Government. His loss will be widely felt in society and by the country at large, which does not possess too many politicians who know how to mingle serious opinions with calm sense and fine temper. Mr. Osborne was a humorist, and his wit and sarcasm were employed, as like-inventive, according to the well-known definition of Lord Beaconsfield—"great ornaments of debate," demanding to be successful, extensive knowledge, fine taste, and a natural talent.

POLITICAL GOSSIP.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* wrote on Tuesday night: It is generally believed that one of the greatest difficulties of the Government next session will be consequent on the attitude of the Irish landlords and their friends towards the Act of last year. If the Conservative cause frame a motion dealing with the complaint so forcibly expressed in the landlords' meeting of this afternoon in such terms as to obtain the vote of the exasperated Parliaments, together with the support of men like Mr. Heneghan on the Moderate side, it is thought they may be able to place the Government in a minority, or at all events in a position of some difficulty. Of course no one can foresee the circumstances of a future session, but politicians who pretend to be present at the time of the Conservative desire to obtain a large vote against the Government. It is said that the most probable form of such a motion would be to the effect that where a landowner felt aggrieved by the decision of the Court in regard to the fixing of a fair rent he should be able to force a sale of the holding, to be completed through the action of the Government. This somewhat resembles the proposal of Lord Lansdowne when the Land Bill was in Committee, which the Marquis found, as a money clause, could not properly originate in the House of Lords, and could not be introduced by way of a private member's amendment in the House of Commons. It is thought that the Government might now be framed which would have the support of Mr. O'Donnell and his friends, as well as of all those who from the point of view of the "rights of property" look with apprehension upon the operation of the Land Act.

The studied persistence with which Mr. Gladstone makes every idea of legislation for this year hang upon the reform of the rules of procedure in the House of Commons has led to a belief that he will be able to carry out the consideration whether it would be advisable to give this great matter precedence of all other business. The statement which is published to-day on the authority of a news association concurs with what was made known as to Mr. Bradlaugh's position in this correspondence before Christmas. Under ordinary rules Mr. Bradlaugh can make his claim the first business of the session in accordance with the standing order directing that members shall be sworn before the Royal Speech is read at the adjournment of the House, and the motion is made for the Address. The belief is that Mr. Bradlaugh will be disposed of much in the form of last year, that the motion preventing him from being sworn at the table will be carried by the votes of many and the abstention of those who are not reformed before the subsequent debate on the Address much time will be wasted, however, will have the effect, if it is allowed, of reviving the question of the House of Commons, which is a matter of great importance. It is thought that the Government will be able to deal with the evil of motions for adjournment in connection with questions voted by the House, to give logical effect to the existing order that a question must not be connected with matter of argument or debate. This is strictly enforced in the putting of questions, and, by reasonable argument, should be followed in reply. There is some apprehension that the Government proposals may depart from the line of least possible change which it is the desire of most members to adhere to. There is no probability of the Government adopting any proposal like that advocated by Mr. Frederic Harrison, by which the House of Commons would elect, upon Mr. Harrison's suggestion, a sort of governing body of 65 members. But that such a proposal should be made by a publicist of weight serves to show how much ground there is for alarm that changes of unnecessary extent may be advocated. The House of Commons would elect, upon Mr. Harrison's suggestion, a sort of governing body of 65 members. But that such a proposal should be made by a publicist of weight serves to show how much ground there is for alarm that changes of unnecessary extent may be advocated. The House of Commons would elect, upon Mr. Harrison's suggestion, a sort of governing body of 65 members. But that such a proposal should be made by a publicist of weight serves to show how much ground there is for alarm that changes of unnecessary extent may be advocated.

proceed in the way of restricting obstructive and superfluous debate in strengthening the control of the House through the Speaker over its members and procedure than by any form of delegation of the authority of the House to any section, however select and important, of its members.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM THE "WORLD.") When the inevitable serious accident occurs, but not before, we may expect that the dangerous nuisance of galloping dogs in Rotten Row will be stopped. Just now it is in full force. The lady with the pug has entered the lists. The elderly sportsman, with the hunting-whip and the pack composed of one fox-terrier, canters leisurely up and down. Colleys rush out from the side-walks, and snap at the horses' heels. When one adds to all this the total disregard of anything like "rule of the road" shown by the young gentlemen with paucity of coat-tail, now home for the holidays, and the young ladies, with their attendant grooms, who gallop furiously, at their own sweet will, it will be seen that park-riding just now is not so pleasant as it might be.

Lord Rosebery has taken Lansdowne House, and has leased it from the Marquis of Lansdowne for a term of seven years. The Duke of Leinster's reduction of rent is estimated at £5,000 a year, and the establishment is being proportionately diminished. Eleven persons attached to the house and stables have been discharged this week.

Sir William Rose, Clerk of the House of Lords, and brother of Lord Strathairn, had the misfortune to wound a man last week when shooting in his preserves at Leiston, in Suffolk. The man was a beater, and was hidden behind a hedge; he received the full force of a shot directed at a passing rabbit. Fortunately, though a good deal damaged about the body and face, the poor fellow is in a fair way to recovery.

It was melancholy to see Mr. Robert Watson, M.P. of the Carlow Hunt, take leave of his field on Christmas-eve. He has been hunting twenty-two years, and his father and grandfather were M.P.s before him—ever since the pack was started, over half a century ago; and, furthermore, there is a youthful son ready to carry on his hereditary distinction if the Land Leaguers don't get the new Carlow game, and pluck it, and ruin it, however, in the stoppage of the Carlow Hunt not to be found in the neighbouring counties of Kilkenny, Wexford, etc. The sportsmen have agreed amongst themselves to stop before they are driven to it by the Land Leaguers. The first suspicion of hostile feeling in Carlow, Mr. Watson boldly decided to abandon his hereditary honours for a season at least.

The matrimonial market has not been lively or buoyant in Ireland of late years. How could it be, when "settlements" were so vague and unascertainable? But among the approaching "arrangements" may be named that of the Hon. Arthur Browne, Lord Kilmaine's brother, and Miss Grace, of County Roscommon. Mr. Browne is, perhaps, the best game and pigeon shot in Ireland, but the domestic dove has plucked him at last.

Another exception to the dearth of marriages in Ireland in these unsettled times crops up in the matrimonial arrangements of Colonel Byng, heir-presumptive to the Torrington peerage, and Miss Jameson, of Montrose, near Downpatrick, Co. Dublin. Colonel Byng is attached to the Lord-Lieutenant's staff, and served recently in South Africa.

Giulietta Ardit leaves the stage and marries. What is the good of taking all possible trouble to give a girl every talent, develop all her faculties which education can further, and then, when the fruit, reaped for and nursed for twenty years, is ripe, the bride, when she walks in, plucks it, and, for better or worse, marches herself off with the prize?

He who has plucked the fruit in this case is Mr. Romaine Walker, son of the Vicar of St. Saviour's Church, St. George's-square, who is to build up a fortune, as he is an architect.

Some morning performances of *She Stoops to Conquer*, with Mrs. Langtry as the heroine, will shortly be given at the Haymarket. Meanwhile the rehearsals of *Ours*, in which the new actress takes a part, are being proceeded with.

The recent deaths of Captain Robert Goff and his intimate friend, Captain Pack-Berford, take us back a quarter of a century to one of the grandest and most brilliant of Irish racing contemporaries with the two good sportsmen that have just been cut off with similar suddenness, within a few days of each other, were the present Marquis of Drogheda, Lord Lurgan, Captain Maclellan, and Sir Thomas Whitlam, amongst the choice spirits which have since passed away may be mentioned Lord Howth, Ned Irwin, George Bryan, Christopher St. George, William Disney, Tom Newcomen, Mr. Lenzie, Captain Gray, Michael Dunne, John Curran, Colonel Weston, the Marquis of Conyngham, Dr. O'Reilly, "Dog" Moore, George Vaughan, and "Noble Henry," the famous Marquis of Waterford.

Let me warn travellers going south not to be imposed upon by the official notice industry which is to be met on the new Gothard route will be open by the 1st of January. It is true that trains are expected to run through the tunnel itself; but the lines of communication with the tunnel cannot be completed, as the railway announced before the middle of next year. Until then, the steamboats from Lucerne, across the lake to Fluelen, and the diligence thence to Goschenen, will run or dawdle as of old. From Goschenen, where the tunnel begins, to Airolo, where it terminates, the railway will be open for the first time performed by rail. On the southern side, down to the lakes the journey will be completed as any one remembers it for the past ten years.

Every one is turning his attention to fires in the winter months, but no one seems to consider the more important one of a fire breaking out in a house containing sets of chambers and series of flats. If a fire were to take place at one of those gigantic mansions in Victoria-street, I fear the inhabitants would have but little chance of escape; and if a conflagration were to occur in Queen Anne's Mansions, I tremble to think what the consequences would be.

The rumour is not to be implicitly relied on that Mr. Darwin is about to follow up his issue of a volume of *Vers de Société*. Hampshire has lost a notability by the death, through blood-poisoning, on Christmas-eve, of Colonel J. Jolliffe, of the Royal Marines. An indefatigable antiquary, he rendered valuable aid to his uncle, the late Major Smith, in the compilation by the latter of a glossary of Isle of Wight words; and the Dialect Society have now in their hands for publication extensive notes which he had prepared on Hampshire folklore, while he was also collaborating a history of Portsmouth.

In calling the other day upon a well-known A.R.A., I found I had been preceded by a somewhat curious visitor, or rather by a visitor who had come upon a curious mission. The stranger had produced from a large portfolio a number of cuttings from various newspapers, consisting of criticisms upon works exhibited by the A.R.A. at several metropolitan and provincial exhibitions; and he had explained to my friend that his occupation in life was to hunt up these fragments of criticism, and dispose of them to the persons most interested at the modest price of sixpence each. A few cuttings and a few sixpences had changed hands, and the distributor of critical wrath had gone on his way rejoicing.

I have read several times lately, in the news from Ireland, of lads being arrested for whistling at the pass of the air, and of the latest offender being but thirteen years of age, and the day Christmas-day. As I do not know the subject of this objectionable song, I am naturally a little astonished at such severe measures being taken against mere lads, especially when I recollect that many years ago the urchins of London had full enjoyment of the liberty to call after every "peeler" the question, "Who stole the goose?" in memory of a too toothsome larcenous member of the force.

THE FIRE RISKS OF ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

We referred some weeks since to some of the perils of the electric light, but the subject has by no means received the attention its importance demands. Every day fresh developments of electricity are reported, every week the new illuminant is introduced into some new town; but all the while hardly a single municipality has ventured to suggest that the conditions should be enforced which are indispensable for safety. There will be a great fire some day, and then, after the mischief is done, people will bethink themselves of doing, at great expense, what could now be done almost without outlay. Nothing can be more absurd than the fact that, in a town in which some people seem to be living as to the safety of theatres lighted by electricity. No doubt the electric light is free from some of the dangers of the gas; yet, but it has dangers of its own not less serious. Many believed that the cause of the frightful catastrophe at Vienna was due to the wires coming in contact with each other; but even if that was not the case the narrow escape of the Germania Theatre from destruction by a fire kindled by the wires is sufficient to prove how mistaken is the notion of the security of the electric light. Not so long ago the wood-work over the entrance of one of the New York theatres was set on fire by a break in the insulator, which brought the naked wire in contact with the wood. The current fired the wood and melted the lead with which the wood was overlaid. Three distinct cases of fire were traced in New York to the heating of the metal staples by which the wires were fastened. Besides imperfect insulation and improper conductors, there is a most fruitful source of fire in the dropping of sparks in incandescent carbon from the globes upon inflammable material below. A fatal disaster occurred in Pennsylvania from this cause. The Randolph Mills were burned down by particles of white-hot carbon falling on wads of yarn. Every light should be enclosed in a globe, every chimney furnished with spark arresters; and even then it is impossible absolutely to prevent danger, for the globe may be broken by an excessive heat, or the very moment when it is most necessary that it should remain intact. Another source of danger which is dreaded by the New York insurance companies is that the rays of a powerful arc light may be focussed by the globe so as to light inflammable material in a shop window. This can be avoided by the use of globes of porcelain or ground glass, but at present no security is insisted on against this or any other danger connected with the use of electricity. The matter is primarily one for the local authorities and the fire brigade. But the fire insurance companies are almost as directly interested in the subject. What are they doing to guard against the new risks? The American fire insurance companies have taken action, and have drawn up five resolutions, the most important of the electric light in all premises insured by them. Their English brethren would do well to follow suit. They will not have long to wait before they learn by painful experience how serious an addition the electric light has to the risks against which they insure their customers. That, however, is their lookout. They have had fair warning, but they are rich enough to pay for their experience. There is one point, however, on which we wish to say a word in concluding. The electric light has been brought to the notice of the Crystal Palace. When the exhibition was at Paris there were no fewer than five fires caused in the Palais de l'Industrie by the electric current. They were not serious—that is to say, they were promptly extinguished, but for every fire there is a risk that it is allowed to burn. But the Palais de l'Industrie is nothing but a gigantic barn or warehouse in which the exhibitors had the whole place to themselves. But the Crystal Palace is altogether another affair. It is crowded with all kinds of inflammable material. One end of it was burned down some time ago. We hope that was the last fire the Palace is destined to suffer, but we cannot altogether repress a certain feeling of uneasiness at the thought of the establishment of a new source of danger, such as the thunderbolts, in the heart of such an edifice as the Crystal Palace.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

OUTRAGES BY SOLOMON ISLANDERS.

Particulars of an attack made upon the trading schooner *Atlantic* by the natives of Rubia are given by the *Admiral's Report*. It seems that a plan had been arranged by the Rubia natives to attack, and if possible capture the *Atlantic*, in order to get a supply of skulls. The co-operation of a chief who had hitherto been supposed to be friendly to the whites was secured with some difficulty. He, in order to lull all suspicion, slept on board the *Atlantic* the night previous to the attack. At early morn his people, who were unarmed, came off in canoes, their ostensible purpose being to trade with the natives. During the day a canoe owned by Rubia people joined the others, having arms concealed about their persons. The mate of the vessel, who was rendered suspicious by his experience of the frequent massacres at these islands, took the precaution to see that the arms of the men were all ready for any emergency. He was walking the deck carrying a bayonet in his hand and pretending to clean it, when suddenly, as if by instinct, he felt he was about to be attacked from behind. He sprang aside, and the blow which he expected, his skill, missed its mark, inflicting a comparatively slight wound on his shoulder. Quick as lightning he plunged his bayonet through the body of his assailant. A general melee ensued on board, but the crew being prepared the natives found themselves overpowered, and fled, having killed but one of the crew of the *Atlantic*, a black boy, while on their side a number were shot through the most fierce struggle which occurred. H.M.S. *Miranda*, on receipt of this information, proceeded to Jurio, sailing on the way at the island of Ronongai, in order to secure the services of a well-known friendly chief, named Sandy, as a guide. The vessel stood off and on whilst an armed boat was sent ashore, guided by Captain Cable, the master of a regular trading schooner, in search of Sandy's village. Having arrived opposite the spot, they entered into friendly conversation with four unarmed natives, who informed them that Sandy's village was close at hand, but that he was absent. Whilst they were talking two natives seized an ammunition-pouch and some clothing off the bow seat and decamped, and simultaneously a number of other, armed with tomahawks, were observed walking down towards the boat. Captain Cable, however, did not fire, but prepared his rifles, on hearing which the natives vanished like magic. Next day an armed boat was again sent on shore, Captain Cable accompanying the Lieutenant in charge, for the purpose of demanding the restoration of the property stolen from the boat the day previous. They were met by a large number of well-armed natives, who assumed a most menacing attitude in the dry bed of a river, studded with immense boulders, behind which they hid themselves whilst a parley was held. It resulted

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THE EGYPTIAN RIDDLE.

Egyptian news at present is little but a succession of conundrums. Arabi Bey has, it seems, been made Under-Secretary for War; and the military incident is regarded as closed by his appointment. — The announcement has a singular and contradictory appearance, and no surprise need be felt if in a day or two the whole story is denounced as apocryphal. If it be true, what becomes of that alarming military dictatorship which has hung like a thundercloud over Egypt since the outbreak of the Egyptian rebellion? Arabi Bey, the Under-Secretary should convert Arabi from an agitator into a harmless official is perhaps not improbable; but if the army, which does not share his emoluments, is thus suddenly reduced to submission, it is clear that the Egyptian Government is in a very bad way. These last weeks have been wholly imaginary. A Gambettist organ energetically denies Mr de Blomvist's account of negotiations concerning

The Durban correspondent of the *Standard* says:—As was expected, the action of the Volksraad in repealing the Proclamation throwing the Gold Fields open to all, and granting to Mr. Benjamin the entire monopoly of mining, and the abolishing the miners who are now existing there, has produced an intense excitement and indignation in that district. The Gold Fields are most flourishing, and the men engaged are doing well. By them the transference of their property to Mr. Benjamin is regarded as a robbery. They insist that in California and Australia diggers were always allowed to work for themselves, and that in neither country dared the authorities have taken the step of confiscating the property of those so handling gold. In an individual the digger has formed a Central Committee, who have drawn up a petition protesting against the concession to Mr. Benjamin, and the repeal of the Proclamation throwing open the Gold Fields to all. They claim that since the diggers notice not to sell or alienate mining rights, and that none acquired after the 17th of November will be recognised. The Boers of the district sympathise with the diggers, and have joined in the protests against Mr. Benjamin's scheme. It is quite probable that the concession to one man of the Fields will close them to all white men, and thus the large and increasing sale of their produce to the diggers will so cease. The diggers are very angry at the proposed monopoly, and threaten themselves from ruin, and it is quite true that if the Government of the Transvaal insist upon carrying out this most unfair transaction, serious trouble will arise. There is news that Mr. Hertzog, the present minister of finance, has been dangerous ill, and may never be his own recovering. He has been attended by a European doctor who practices in his district. Uqukela has sent out parties to search for Makheke, the murderer of the magistrate, Mr. Hertzog, the murder of the migrating party, and the killing of the Boer farmer. It is believed that he will be captured. Uqukela is shortly going to send a mission to England, to plead his claim to the possession of the Gold Fields, which was taken away from him by the Cape authorities, and is now held by Imperial troops. The opinion of all moderate men is that the seizure of this post was a high-handed and unjustifiable proceeding. The appointment of Honorable Bulwer-Goreau has been received with much satisfaction by the majority of Colonists. When here he was not altogether popular, but it is felt that, under the circumstances, no better choice could have been made, as it was feared that the Government would not be comprehended in the many and varied difficulties which may have to be met in Natal.

The crinoline is an insincerity, but this presage of crinoline is by no means so universally adopted as alarmists would have us believe. It is worn chiefly by those who aim at being conspicuous, and these are the very persons who have a fashion to death by the vigorous enthusiasm with which they adopt it, and rush into extremes with it, the more so as it ridiculous and vulgar in the eyes of those who might otherwise have been tempted to wear it. The best-dressed women in England scorn the crinoline, and though they by no means despise the adventurous aid of the corset, they scorn the "astute" and "corseted" as a means designed to improve upon nature, and the deft skillfulness of the tailor accomplished in the mysteries of padding, there is yet the charm of consistency and completeness about their attire, consequent upon their being able to perform the services of those who bring to their profession the same amount of time, and the artistic skill inseparable from constant practice. Far different is it with those who copy from afar, and burlesque what they seek in all good faith to reproduce.

So much for form. Colour, though of secondary importance, is yet worthy of consideration. The "astute" improvement, ridiculous as its apostolic rendering is, has done much for English taste in this respect. Out of the blind gropings of the school after sublimed and unattainable tints, resulting in bilious, sickly, and most melancholy greens and blues, agonising reds, revolting yellows, and a few other equally revolting tints, and livid laces, has been evolved a more feeling for colour such as never characterised our nation before. Men have little chance of proving this refined taste in colour on their persons, and with them it is displayed in the decoration of houses. Women absolutely revel in the richness of pure colouring that lies to their hands, and the more the combination of tints become less frequent the year. Glaring eccentricities are now rare enough to prove themselves the exceptions to the general rule of good taste, and the result, in gatherings of well-dressed people, is a harmonious effect of tint which at one time was English taste was strange. The prevalence of dark colours for street wear is another indication of the better taste of recent years.

Manufacturers who followed the march of colour soon discovered that tint is in a great measure dependent upon texture. A good dress, therefore, will not "take" the good shade of colour which is the consequence of this had been the production of such materials as were never even dreamed of by our grandmothers and great-grandmothers, whose one idea of "bravery in dress" was the silk or satin that could stand alone. To their rich and novel novelties, softness superadded. The brocades of to-day, the silks, the satins, the moirés, are of a texture as to do justice to the beauty of the colours in which they are produced. We have, therefore, textures unsurpassed in refinement, and textures of a more decided character, ornament, colour, and texture, and hue, and when the errors of a too obtrusive and amorphous texture are corrected, and the textures are amended, those of a would-be corrective insincerity disappearing in their train, Englishwomen may hope to be the best-dressed men of civilized countries, as Englishmen have been obliged to be the best-dressed men of uncivilized countries.

But now for the odd coincidence. I find in the "Nouveau Dictionnaire Universel" (20 vols., Paris, 1810) that the name of the Superintendent of Finances who, A.D. 1640 first caused the coin known as the Louis d'Or to be coined in France, was Claude de Bullion. This is manifestly a coincidence: since Professor Skeat tells me privately that the word bullion occurs in the ninth year of Edward III.

London season, in the days of Almack's, one of the most popular of fashionable young men. He was a friend of Lord Frasers, Lord Forester, and other successful and distinguished persons, and other successors to the title of the Duke of Crimes was in the thickest of the fray, so much so that when it was wondered how he escaped so many dangers, a wit of the period said: "You know white pheasants are never shot at, and I have seen the Duke of Crimes with white hair which he wore in well-ordered profusion. A brave man and a gallant soldier, he won the affection of all who knew him, and he was able to do the State some service in the important duties which he discharged with constant care. The Duke of Crimes and his colleagues will deeply mourn the loss of an assistant and a friend who was never absent in the hours of work and care, but whose more genial hours of leisure and thought were more genial hours of leisure and thought. He entered the army as an ensign in the 1st Life Guards in Oct., 1829, became lieutenant 24th Jan., 1834, captain 24th June, 1837, major 19th October, 1849, and lieutenant-colonel 12th October, 1854. He was promoted to the rank of colonel 1st January, 1860, and was appointed to the command of the 1st Life Guards in 1861. For upwards of thirty years he had been an equerry to the Duke of Cambridge, and in July, 1856, was appointed private secretary to his Royal Highness as Commander-in-Chief of the Forces. He was appointed to the command of the 1st Life Guards as aide-de-camp in the expedition to the Crimea. He served throughout the Eastern campaign, including the battles of Alma (horse shot), Balaklava, and Inkerman (horse shot), the Siege of Sebastopol, and sortie of the 26th October, 1855. He was promoted to the rank of major 1st January, 1860, and was appointed to the command of the 1st Life Guards in 1861. He was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath and was a Knight of the Legion of Honour and received the 5th class of the Medjidie, the Turkish medal, and the Crimean medal. He was appointed colonel 1st January, 1860, and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general 1st October, 1877, and in July, 1880, was appointed colonel of the 21st Hussars. For a long time past he has been deputy ranger of Hyde-park, at the office of which he is in the gift of the Duke of Cambridge.

A Glasgow correspondent wrote on Thursday night:—"Proof was laid before Sheriff Dees to-day in the action at the instance of Archibald Park on behalf of his daughter-in-law Mary Park, against Jessie H. Wallace, malron of Lochburn Industrial School, Mary Park, a minor, who is the alleged victim of ill-treatment of the girl during her stay at the school.—Mr. J. H. A. Macdonald, Q.C., instructed by Mr. W. B. Paterson, writer, was counsel for the pursuer; and Mr. David Rodger, appeared for the defender.—Janet Beattie, a widow, who is the mother of the girl, deposed that Miss Wallace on May 19, 1905, said to the girl Park that her father had sent her to the school as he was tired of thrashing her, and that she (Miss Wallace) would thrash her again and continue thrashing her till she was able to lie over a chair. She then told the girl Park to lie over a chair. She then told the girl Wallace then sent gave her 13 lashes. Miss Greenhill and witness helped to hold the girl down. Miss Wallace next pulled the clothes off the girl. Park went down upon her knees asking Miss Wallace's forgiveness, but Miss Wallace said she would not forgive her get about 50 blows altogether. Her body was particularly the left side, was all red and swollen. Park was quite naked. She was weak after the flogging. Park asked for a drink of water, saying she was dying. Miss Wallace instead of giving her water, dashed it on her face and ordered her to get up. Mary Jane Park, the female plaintiff, spoke to the girl running away from the school, and being taken back by two of the officials, who promised that if she returned she would not be punished. That was the only promise given by Miss Wallace, who, she said, caused her to get up. Miss Wallace said, and lashed her till she was out of breath—a good part of the flogging was being on her bare body. She received about thirty lashes. She was afterwards put into a room with twenty minutes, and next locked up in the surgery. She was kept in the surgery, and time she was kept on bread-and-water, and had to lie on the floor, as there was no bed. Miss Wallace told her that if she mentioned the flogging to her father she would get more. Other witnesses were examined, and announced that they believed the evidence, and that the marks on the girl's person were strong evidence of undue severity. He was not surprised that the flogging produced in the girl a depressed state of mind. To put the girl under a spray bath for ten minutes after a severe flogging was a cruel practice, and produced gross inhumanity. The only person who was not was the defender herself. She said that of 220 girls in the school Park was the worst behaved. She had been warned that if she ran away she would be punished. The punishment in question did not exceed twelve stripes. It was the same for all the girls. The girl got bread and water, and when she was up of it she ordered her to receive the regular diet of the house. The spray bath was used for sanitary purposes. The girl was not of purpose flogged naked, but in the struggle her clothing fell off.—Judgment was deferred.

MR. FORSTER AND THE IRISH LANDLORDS

Mr. Forster has addressed the following letter to Mr. Kavanagh, one of the speakers at the recent Landlords' meeting in Dublin :-

Irish Office, Great Queen-street, S.W..

January 5.
Dear Mr. Kavanagh,—I have to-day had an opportunity of reading your speech last Monday, and in due remarks to the Sub-committee on the Land Act, the Sub-committee on the Land Act said that you reported as saying: "I believe—and am glad of being able now to make this statement publicly, in order that her Majesty's Government may have the opportunity of contradicting it if it is not correct, that there have been given secret instructions of a very grave nature, their acceptance of and their compliance with which is a condition of the Government's agreement to the Bill." I am better to postpone reply to this statement, spoken or written, until I can make them in Parliament, but upon so important a matter as this I cannot allow a gentleman of your high authority upon Irish affairs, and for whom I have the highest personal respect and regard, to labour under such a misapprehension. Let me, therefore, at once contradict this statement, for which there is absolutely no foundation whatever, and respecting which you have doubtless been misinformed.—I am, dear Mr. Kavanagh, yours sincerely,

M. GAMBETTA'S POSITION.—The *Morning Post* thinks that "M. Gambetta is to be applauded for the patriotism and good sense which lead him to choose merit and ability rather than party in political selections. But there is very real impartiality in his very sweeping and exclusive condemnation in the eyes of the Republican zealots. While the Conservative classes are doubtful about M. Gambetta's republicanism, there must be no doubt at all about the sincerity of his arguments and the loyalty of his former supporters regarding change in their favourite's attitude. It is declared that M. Gambetta is about to converse with the Emperor on the subject of the Republic, has summarised the situation of France from the attempt of M. Ollivier in 1870 to 1871. M. Ollivier tried to establish a Liberal Republic. M. Gambetta is founding an Imperial Republic. He will still the others succeed? It is worthy of serious consideration the man in Parliament who, after M. Gambetta himself, is the most influential leader of the Republicans, namely, M. Henri Brisson, is actually engaged in a very energetic and vigorous activity against the new policy."

PRICE 40 CENTIMS

made to Mr. Flowers for a summons issued Hajj Ali Ben Mohammed, the accredited agent of the British Consulate, to whom Mr. Litter, Q.C., disclosed the instant case. The result of the English boys' refusal to go was actually sold into slavery. The ground on which the application was based the first instance was that the consent of the parents of the children to the sale was not given by the father after a long discussion. Mr. Flowers said there was not sufficient information before him upon which to grant a summons. He promised, however, to consider the application if a formal information was presented.

ACCIDENT ON THE CHATHAM AND DOVER RAILWAY.—An accident occurred about two o'clock on Saturday morning on the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, which had happened at an hour when trains run frequently, and the result was a serious one for the passengers. A Chatham and Dover engine, which was being shunted on the out-metropolitan line of rails at Charlotte-street junction, between Blackfriars and Borough-road

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 9-10, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE CLOTURE.

Sir Stafford Northcote gave notice on Thursday evening that when the Prime Minister brings forward his Resolutions regarding the Procedure of the House he shall oppose the First, embodying the *Closure*. Mr. Marriott, one of the Liberal members for Brighton, has also given notice of an Amendment to the effect that no Rule of Procedure can be considered satisfactory which confers the power of closing the Debate on a bare majority of members. In fact, the more Mr. Gladstone's first "new Rule" is considered, the more the certainty grows that the House of Commons will refuse its assent to it. The whole drift of public opinion is clearly and resolutely against it: it is faintly defended by a few timid Ministerialist journals, and vigorously denounced everywhere else. Nor is there anything in the state of public affairs to warrant so extensive a suppression of the rights and liberties of Parliament as Mr. Gladstone now proposes; for although the difficulties which impeded the endowment of the Ministry with an absolute and despotic authority would be a far greater one, and only to be borne under the pressure of some tremendous national crisis such as was held by the ancient Romans to justify a Dictatorship. To pretend that such an innovation is necessary to ensure a speedier passage of Bankruptcy Bills, or County Board Bills, or Rivers Conservancy Bills, is an outrage on the public common sense. The proposal is nothing less than to confer on the Government of the day the power of terminating Debates exactly when it chooses, by the fiat of a bare majority. The sham conditions by which the proposal is accompanied only make matters worse, because they show that the authors of it are aware of its arbitrary character. When less than forty members oppose the application of the *Closure*, this opposition may be overruled by any majority whatsoever. If thirty-nine are against it, thirty-nine can silence them. It is only when the minority exceeds forty that a show of moderation is introduced by the provision that the majority in that case must number more than two hundred members. Thus, if the minority be forty, the majority must be two hundred and one; but then if the minority be two hundred, the majority must be four hundred and one; and so on. In the same way, two hundred and fifty could silence two hundred and forty-nine; three hundred could silence two hundred and ninety-nine; and that, too, without debate or protest. The limitation imposed is a mere form, which, in so far as it masks the real nature of the Rule, only makes it more dangerous. As the Minister will always have the required number at his disposal—for one who has not must very soon cease to be Minister—it is clear that if the Rule is passed, the freedom of speech so long enjoyed by members of the House of Commons will be placed entirely at the mercy of one man; and what is really the final stage of Parliamentary Government will cease to exist. Now, we must remind the country that this particular policy, which is the boast of Englishmen to have matured, has not been maintained so long for the sake of legislation, but for the sake of liberty. We cannot allow the second to be sacrificed to the first, and at any cost the House of Commons is bound to reject this innovation. It cannot be entertained for a moment. If it were to be adopted there would be very little necessity for the other eleven weeks which Mr. Gladstone has added to it. Absolute master of the debates, the leader of the House would arrange business as he pleased, and he would generally be able to bend private members to his will by threatening to stop discussion unless they submitted to his will.—*Standard*.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO MENTONE.

The statement has been made, apparently with a political motive, that the Queen's projected visit to Mentone is suggested by failing health, occasioned by political anxiety, and especially by distress as to the state of Ireland. Our readers will hear with satisfaction that there is no foundation for this representation with regard either to the mental or physical condition of the Queen. No one can wonder that the Queen should desire to exchange a few days of the bleak and gloomy weather of an English spring for the bright sunshine and clear air of the Riviera. A residence at Mentone, such as the Court Circular announces that her Majesty intends to make, after Easter, is till the second week of April, will cut out, as it were, the very core of our season of easterly winds and March dust, and diminish the discomforts of a British winter in a sensible degree. The Queen mentions her intention of preserving a strict incognito during her stay abroad, and no doubt the deliberate sincerity of this resolve will be recognised by all foreign authorities and carefully carried out. Were it otherwise the little tour could scarcely be looked upon as a refreshing or restful holiday. The wish to escape from winter, which though always loyal and respectful may be often very troublesome and tiring, is probably one of the Queen's motives for taking a holiday abroad. There are others suf-

ciently conceivable, however, even to persons who possess Highland castles and villas by the shores of southern England. The complete change of climate supplies a tonic not to be obtained by Britons within the bounds of their own four seas. The change may not be from cold to warmth. On the contrary, it is probable England has during the present remarkable winter enjoyed an average higher temperature than many wintering places in the South of Europe. But the brightness of the sunshine, the clearness of the air, they enjoy are something quite unfamiliar in our beloved island. They are enough in themselves to animate the spirits and excite the mind. They make physical exercise a joy, mere existence a pleasure. There is something to be said with truth against every individual town or village on the south line of the French coast. Cannes and Mentone are dull, and have only lately freed themselves from sanitary suspicion. Nice is not dull, but neither is it safe for invalids, from a climatic point of view, owing to its exposure to cold winds. Monaco is wicked, but whatever their defects as points of residence may be, the enchanting roads which wander from one to the other cause them all to be forgotten. If Monaco be wicked, it is with the wickedness of paradise. Nature has done such wonders there, man has not been able to deface them. On the surface, indeed, he has co-operated with her as far as in him lay to produce a perfect result. More lovely gardens are not to be found than those from which the visitor may survey some of the loveliest sea views in Europe. He needs not gamble, though it has been hinted that those guests at the big hotel are most welcome who most risk their luck at the tables. He is provided with admirable reading-rooms and delightful concerts. Under it all squirms the serpent, but a residence of a week or two will not hurt the tenderest conscience. A delightful excursion, not very well-known or very often made, is out to the end of the promontory of Antibes. The view thence is exactly the reverse of that from San Carlo. The coast line right and left divides the blue sea from the lovely green shores in curving lines, the vine and olive-clad hills slope gently upwards crowned with their rock-built villages, and behind all rise the snowy Maritime Alps, looking as if they stood there to guard their Italy, which they have not known how to guard. That view is one which remains indelible in the memory. The man who should travel blindfold there and back again from the heart of a London fog, allowed to gaze and fix it on his heart for the space of half an hour, would not have paid too dearly for his gain. No, it may not be gained for the heaven of the Kingdom of God, but England is a very good place to go away from in the winter and early spring. It is for English people at any rate (and for some Americans) the best place in the world to live in, but not just at this time of year. What it might be if we consumed our own smoke in another sense from personal consumption of it down our throats is another thing. We in the big towns might then see the sun at other times than in the height of summer, we might know the sky was blue on more exact authority than the assertion of the poets, we might have the nightingales back in London, we might escape the rasping sore throat now threatening to be national and chronic. But even then we should miss much that the journey to Mentone will find, and find this year, we trust, in even more abundant abundance. The soft refreshing air, the brilliant sunbeams, the vegetation almost tropical in character and luxuriance, the sea bluer, sweeter, calmer than that even which washes our fair Devonshire or Cornwall coasts—all these have a power to soothe and charm peculiar to themselves. Joined to complete abandonment of work, release from responsibility, and cessation from tedious ceremonial, they will, as is the nation's cordial hope, give the Queen the perfect rest and enjoyment they offer to the open eyes and disengaged mind.—*Daily News*.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

The Queen has been pleased to signify her intention of conferring on Lord Salisbury the honour of the Knighthood of the Order of St. Patrick, in the room of the late Lord Lurgan. We believe that a large number of members on the Liberal side of the House object to the Rule regarding the closing of Debate, for the reason that it would enable the Government to induce the House to make it less stringent in its character. Information has been received that Mr. Fottrell, the Solicitor to the Irish Land Commission, who was responsible for the issue of the sample bill, has resigned his office. The bills referring to the Channel Tunnel will, we understand, be referred to the Special Committee, partly nominated by the Executive and partly by the Committee of Selection. It is expected that the Committee will take evidence on the military part of the question.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

In connection with the new rules which Mr. Gladstone will submit to the House of Commons on Monday next, we learn that Mr. Ashton Dilke intends to move that the number of Standing Committees proposed shall be increased from two to five, and that the new Committees shall deal respectively with Irish and Scotch questions, and with the Budget. Sir George Campbell has already given notice of a Committee for Scotland, and Mr. Dilwyn will also probably propose the appointment of a Budget or Financial Committee.

If the House agrees to the Prime Minister's resolution appointing Standing Committees, it is, we believe, intended to find accommodation for them by causing two committees upstairs to be temporarily thrown into one by means of a movable partition. It will be observed that the rules of procedure of which Mr. Gladstone has given notice makes no provision for dealing with the modern extension of what is known as the question-hour. It is probable that an attempt will be made to remedy this omission by an amendment. Another matter left unprovided for is the practice of vexatious counting, which so often as the session has gone has been of high importance. The House will also be called to this matter by an amendment, moved by a private member. We understand that the Home Secretary does not intend to introduce this session a Water Bill for the metropolis. This will be a matter for consideration after the passing of a measure for the reform of Metropolitan Government. The President of the Board of Trade will not move for leave to introduce the Bankruptcy Bill till after the new rules of procedure have been disposed of. Nor will any other Ministerial measures in the meantime be advanced.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack shortly before five o'clock.

THE LAND COMMISSION AND THE OATH.

LORD LONGFORD moved for a copy of a letter addressed to him by the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, in explanation of the circumstances in which the pamphlet entitled "How to become the owner of your farm," was printed at the Queen's printing office, Dublin. In doing so he took occasion to condemn some of the notices issued by the Land Commission.

LORD MONCK, from a long knowledge of the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, bore testimony to that gentleman's general efficiency in the public service. Lord CARLISLE said there would be no objection to the production of the letter, as a correspondence for which he intended to move would put the House in much fuller possession of all the circumstances relating to the publication of "How to become the owner of your farm."

THE JEW IN RUSSIA.

The Duke of SALISBURY asked whether the Secretary of State could communicate to the House any recent information relating to the treatment of the Jews in Russia.

LORD GRANVILLE thought it hardly necessary to claim for the Government of which he was a member that they sympathized with the Jews, or that they were prejudiced against the treatment of the Jews in Russia. Lord SALISBURY thought it hardly necessary to claim for the Government of which he was a member that they sympathized with the Jews, or that they were prejudiced against the treatment of the Jews in Russia.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE RULES OF PROCEDURE.

SIR S. NORTHCOTE gave notice that when the Prime Minister's Resolutions regarding the Procedure of the House he shall oppose the First, embodying the *Closure*. Mr. Marriott, one of the Liberal members for Brighton, has also given notice of an Amendment to the effect that no Rule of Procedure can be considered satisfactory which confers the power of closing the Debate on a bare majority of members.

HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS.

In answer to Mr. Broadbent, Mr. Gladstone stated that Her Majesty has been pleased to confer the rank of Privy Counsellor on Sir H. Robinson, and also to create Sir E. Wood a G.C.M.G. and Sir H. de Villiers a K.C.M.G. In addition to these honours, the dignity of a G.C.M.G. has been accepted by President Adams, subject to the consent of the Volksraad.

THE OUTRAGES ON THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

In answer to a question from Mr. Serjeant Simon, Mr. Gladstone said the Government did not think it would be expedient to make any formal representation to the Russian Government on the Jews; and in answer to Sir J. Hay, who suggested the constitutional alternative of dissolution or resignation, he said the Government did not intend to take any steps in regard to the division of Tuesday.

THE ADDRESS.

The adjourned debate on Mr. P. J. Smyth's Home Rule amendment to the Address was resumed by Mr. Dawson, who, speaking as the Lord Mayor of Dublin, pointed out the inconveniences of the present system, and was continued by Mr. T. D. Sullivan, who declared that law and order would never prevail in Ireland until the Irish people made their own laws. Mr. Molloy went into details of the system which the Home Rule party desired to substitute for the present connexion between the two countries, and described the manner in which local affairs would be confided to the Irish Parliament and Imperial matters to the Parliament in London, without impairing the integrity of the Government.

Mr. M. HENRY thought that the difficulties would not turn out to be so great as they seemed to be. Mr. Gladstone would give his mind to them; and Mr. O'Donnell remarked that, however formidable the objections to Home Rule might be, they were not so great as the objections to the present system. Home Rule did not involve separation, for the Irish meant only to have local self-government for themselves, but to get their share in the government of the English and Scotch.

Mr. EWART protested that the Imperial connection with their lives, and Mr. Plunket protested against the Prime Minister's invitation to the Irish members to reopen the Home Rule agitation.

Mr. SEXTON made a bitter personal attack on Mr. Ewart and Mr. Plunket, and thanked the Prime Minister for showing the Irish members to the House of Commons as the "Jews of the Empire." The amendment was then negatived by 93 to 37.

Mr. MC CARTHY next moved an amendment of great length, setting forth the action of the Irish Executive under the Coercion Acts, and concluding with a declaration that an immediate abandonment of all coercive measures and the establishment of Constitutional Government in Ireland are essentially necessary for the peace and prosperity of the United Kingdom. Dealing chiefly with the arrest of Mr. Parnell, he read numerous extracts from his speeches since the prorogation to show that he had never advocated the non-payment of rent, nor the rejection of the Land Act. On the contrary, he had recommended that it should be tested; he had used his influence to bring about a revocation of order; and in reference to the "prairie value," for which he had been so much censured, Mr. McCarthy showed that it was borrowed from a speech of Mr. Bright. Considering how the Irish people had been deceived by the Liberal party, it was no wonder that there should be discontent approaching even to disaffection in Ireland, and by suppressing the Land League and arresting its principal members the Government had deprived themselves of the most potent means of preserving order, and were responsible for all that had occurred since.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER commenced his defence of his administration by confessing that he had been compelled to put his exceptional powers into execution more largely than he had expected, but he had no other resource, unless he had been prepared to allow the country to drift into a condition of excitement which might have led to civil war. He also read extracts from Mr. Parnell's speeches, which he contended proved that his designs were not so harmless as Mr. McCarthy had represented. It was not, however, for the advice which he had given that Mr. Parnell was arrested, but for the means taken to enforce it, the intimidation, boycotting, outrages, and murders by which the Land League coerced the people to conform to their orders. Of these practices Mr. Forster related some striking instances, contending that as they could not be punished by the ordinary law, the Government were driven to these arrests, unless they were prepared to allow the Land League to become the real government of Ireland. He admitted that he had been some- what lax in dealing with Mr. Parnell's intentions, but as soon as he felt convinced in his conscience that that gentleman was guilty of inciting to intimidation he advised the arrests. As to the "reasonable practices," though he believed that an organized attempt to substitute private Courts for the Queen's Courts was a reasonable practice, the arrests on that head were made because of speeches which, if permitted to go on, would have brought about a state of feeling certain to end in civil war. In the same manner the Land League was suppressed as a dangerous organization, and that its members were guilty of intimidation. Of these reasonable practices, and of the acts of violence by which the "No rent" manifesto was enforced, Mr. Forster gave the House numerous specimens; and passing to the present situation he expressed his confident belief that things were getting better. Landlords were collecting their rents; farmers were finding out that they had been misled by the Land League; and juries were doing their duty. At the same time, the signs of improvement were not sufficient to justify any relaxation of vigilance or to permit the release of the prisoners. At the close of his speech Mr. Forster made some remarks in vindication of the Land Act, which, he said, was beginning to have an effect; and in justifying the character and general conduct of the Government.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, THURSDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager and Duchess of Roxburgh, and her Majesty walked and drove this morning with the Princess. The Earl of Kenmare, K.P., Lord Chamberlain, arrived at Osborne to-day, and had an audience of the Queen at Portsmouth about March 15, in the steam yacht *Victoria* and *Albert*, and, escorted by the *Alberta* tender, *Enchantress*, *Admiralty* yacht, and the *Galatea*, Trinity House yacht, proceeded to Cherbourg, whence the journey will be completed by special train. The Queen's journey will be completed in the middle of April, to enable her Majesty to be in England on the marriage of Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, attended by Lady Emily Kingscote and the Hon. F. Tyrwhitt Wilson, went to Windsor on Thursday morning to visit the Duke and Duchess of Connaught at Windsor Castle. The Prince and Princess remained to luncheon, and returned to London in the afternoon.

A Court correspondent says: "The Duchess of Connaught has benefited by the change from Bagshot to Windsor Castle. Although still weak, her health has much improved, and her Royal Highness continues to progress favourably towards convalescence."

The *London* correspondent says: "We understand that the Duchess of Connaught's sudden removal on Sunday from Bagshot to Windsor was in consequence of the unsatisfactory state of the sanitary arrangements at Bagshot Park. For some weeks very offensive smells have been observed about the house, and it is believed that the Duchess has suffered from obscure forms of indisposition. Her Royal Highness had made an excellent convalescence for nearly three weeks after her confinement, when she developed symptoms which were thought to depend on poisoning by sewer gas. On the removal of the Duchess to Windsor, a large supply from a disused closet had been simply cut through by a careless workman, and its open end, leading directly into the main drain, was left immediately under the flooring close to the central hall, and this a continuous stream of gas was poured into the house. Dr. Playfair advised that her Royal Highness should be removed to Windsor without delay, to get her out of the infected atmosphere. On Sunday Sir William Jenner met him in consultation by her Majesty's command, and, completely concurring in this view, the removal was at once effected. Happily a very decided improvement in her Royal Highness's condition is already apparent, and her symptoms no longer cause serious anxiety."

The Marquis and Marchioness of Bath and family arrived at their residence in Berkeley-square on Thursday, from Longleat, Wiltshire.

The Earl and Countess of Erne arrived at their residence in Eaton-square on Thursday, from Crom Castle, Newton Butler, Ireland.

The Earl and Countess of Darley have left their residence in Hill-street, Berkeley-square, for Cobham Hall, Kent.

Earl and Countess Granville had a dinner party at their residence on Carlton-house-terrace on Wednesday night. Afterwards Lady Granville had a small and early reception.

Earl Bathurst has left town for Cirencester House, Cirencester.

The *Morning Post* says that the Earl of Weymouth, according to a private letter, received on Thursday afternoon from Melton Mowbray, was, since his release on Tuesday last, not worse, but his lordship is very weak from the confinement to his bed. Lord Wiltton has been suffering more or less from the

gout since the 15th of last month. No bulletin or telegraphic statement has been issued at his lordship's house in Grosvenor-square. Inquiries from the members of the Royal Family and many personal friends have been made, but no further information was obtained. Six years ago Lord Wiltton, then in London, was for several weeks in a critical condition, and then suffered from extreme debility, but he pulled through, and his friends hope that he may do so now. It was stated at an inquiry at Egerton Lodge, Melton Mowbray, at a late hour on Thursday night, that the Earl of Wiltton was still in a very critical condition, though he had regained strength to some extent. Altogether there was a decided improvement.

Lord and Lady Tenterden entertained at dinner on Wednesday last, at their residence in Portland-place, his Excellency the German Ambassador, his Excellency the Austrian Ambassador and Countess Karolyi, Count Herbert Bismarck, Earl and Countess of Derby and Lady Margaret Cecil, Earl of Redesdale, the Prime Minister, Mrs. and Miss Redesdale, Lord and Lady Sudley, the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P., and Mrs. Goschen, Sir Arthur Hayter, M.P., and Lady Hayter, Hon. Miss Abbott, Mrs. Maxwell, and Mr. Sandeson. Lady Tenterden afterwards had a reception, which was attended by the Ambassadors and leading members of the Corps Diplomatique, and by a numerous and fashionable assembly.

The Bishop of Peterborough is indisposed, and has been compelled to leave Leicester, where a Church mission is being held.

The marriage of Hon. Arthur Henniker, Colonel-in-Chief, and Hon. Frances Milnes will take place shortly after Easter.

The death is announced of the Hon. Douglas Edward Holroyd, brother of the Earl of Sheffield. The deceased gentleman has been staying at Brighton for the last few months, and succumbed yesterday to an attack of paralysis from which he had been suffering. He was 48 years of age.

THE PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The following pastoral has been issued by Dr. Adler, the Chief Rabbi:—"Beloved Brethren, a persecution, great and terrible has come upon the members of the house of Israel in Russia, and their tribulation is great. In many places they have lost all their substance; in others their lives have become the prey of their enemies; deeds of violence have been committed against them, and their children are being torn from their country, from which they expected protection, have been powerless to save them from the fury of the populace, and thus our brethren in that land are not only overwhelmed with past misfortunes, but tremble at the prospect of what may yet come upon them. Many have taken to flight, escaping with naught but their lives. This pitiable tale of woe has reached these shores, and has moved the hearts of our Christian fellow-countrymen to lift up their voice in solemn protest against such outrages and oppression. They have also given utterance to their sympathy in words aglow with brotherly love and tender pity. And with the fruit of their lips they have brought the gift of their hands for the relief of suffering. Verily the memory of their words and actions is numbered by the angels of heaven, and will pass away from us and our children for ever. For the hope is kindled within us that these words will take wing and will reach the heart of the Ruler of Russia and his counsellors, so that they will have compassion upon the oppressed and that they will endeavour to effect the liberation of the house of Israel, the duty is incumbent on us, by our willingness to make sacrifices, that we recognise our brotherhood towards those who suffer. Great and urgent is their need. The victims are numbered by the thousands. Many thousands have fled from the land of sorrow, and tens of thousands will follow them. We must aid them to migrate to distant and happier lands. We must help them to gain subsistence there for themselves and their children by the labour of their hands. To effect this object enormous sums are required; and I call upon you, with all earnestness, to bring your offerings in bounty and in plenty, with a generous heart and an unstinting hand. How can we, who live in safety and happiness in this dear land, endure to see the tribulation of our brethren without trying to help them? How can we, whose lines have fallen in pleasant places, bear to hear of the sufferings of those who are without home and shelter, without aid and bread, and forced to open wide their hands to assist them? Surely you are still, as ever, sons of mercy. In mercy, then, hearken to the cry of suffering, and hasten to answer it. Say not the evil is distant; we will shut our ears, because the cry comes from afar off; but, thinking God that such is the answer to your prayer, you and from your homes prove the greatness of your gratitude by the greatness of your help. And may the Lord vouchsafe to you His blessing and establish the work of your hands."

PERSONATING NOBLEMEN.—At the Birmingham police-court on Thursday, Mary Jane Fearnoux, who gave her age as 43, but declared to be only 20 years of age, was charged with obtaining by fraud various sums of money, amounting in the aggregate to between £6,000 and £7,000. The prisoner, who had been brought from Liverpool the previous day, sat in a Newmarket carriage, which gave her a somewhat masculine appearance, though she is of slender figure. Mr. Rigby, for the prosecution, said the prisoner was charged with obtaining large sums of money by various frauds, and with falsely representing herself to be the wife of Lord Arthur Clinton, and, at another, the Earl of Lanesborough. The frauds extended over a period of some seven or eight years. They had been very ingeniously accomplished—so much so, indeed, that the prosecutor, Mr. Beynon, could scarcely be believed to have been so young. In conjunction with a man named Gething, who had been brought up on the previous day, she had obtained some £2,000 from Mr. Beynon, and large sums from Mr. Screen and several other people. The prisoner was remanded to the workhouse, and was to be brought back on Friday morning.

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say too much. Mrs. Ward believed the prisoner's story, and advanced money from time to time on the faith of the representations. She also introduced "his lordship" to several of her relations, who were desirous of lending money. Mrs. Ward and her sister, Mrs. Drew, state that they introduced the woman to Gething, who is their brother, and that he introduced her to Mr. Beynon, from whom she obtained £2,000, and to Mr. Screen, from whom she obtained £3,000 by various instalments, giving as "securities" what purported to be valuable deeds and letters from Lord Coleridge, whom she represented as her trustee. During the time that she was borrowing the money, she nearly always dressed as a man "in the height of fashion," with gaiters, lavender kid gloves, and walking stick. In this costume she gained the affection of two young ladies, one of whom became desirous of discovering the fraud and had to be placed in an asylum, where she is still confined. When unable to obtain further loans, Fearnoux took a situation as a governess at Casemere Farm, near Birmingham, but received notice to leave, in the belief that she was a man. She afterwards took a situation as attendant at Prestwick Asylum, Manchester, but did not remain long. When arrested she was living with her mother, at 4, Grogson-street, Liverpool, and was dressed in feminine attire. During the journey, she several times complained of illness, and wanted to be taken to a light, but no notice was taken of the request, which was believed to be only a part of an attempt to escape.

A WEST AFRICAN TOWN BURNED.—*English and French Forces Plundered.*—Information has just reached Liverpool of the destruction by fire of the town of Fourcariah, West Africa. The natives, after burning the town, plundered the British factories in the neighbourhood, also a French factory. Several of the owners of the factories and their clerks were missing, and it was feared they had been killed.

ANOTHER WARRANT AGAINST LORD HUNTLY.—At the Mansion House on Thursday Mr. Besley, barrister, attended before the Lord Mayor for the purpose of the presentation of a petition for a warrant to be issued against Lord Huntly, who had neglected to appear in response to a summons which had been granted against him requiring him to appear at that court to answer a charge of obtaining over £2,000 by false pretences, from Benjamin Nicholson. The matter, it will be remembered, has been several times before the court, and the application had been adjourned from time to time in order that the defendant might appear. Mr. Besley now said that, seeing that the summons of the court had been disregarded, he had applied to the Lord Mayor to issue a warrant against the defendant in the ordinary way. The Lord Mayor at once said that he should grant the application, and ordered a warrant to be issued.

TRADE ENTERPRISE IN CHINA.—It is not a little flattering to England, the *Building and Engineering Times* thinks, that among the many marked changes the Chinese as a nation have introduced in recent years are the arsenals and gun factories and their steam navigation are manifestly borrowed from English ideas, and their enterprise in the matter of coal mining was started originally by an English mining engineer. This work is purely a Government affair, was undertaken in 1876, and is now prosecuted in two distinct districts, one at Keelung, Island of Formosa, and the other at Kailing near Tientsin, North China. The English engineer who inaugurated the system was supported by a staff of only eight or ten foreign workmen. The ordinary mining engines and apparatus in use at home are employed. Much complaint was at first made by the engineer of the difficulty in getting the consent of the superintending native officials to extra expenditure or alteration, even when he considered it imperative, but under a change of management things seem to work more smoothly. The output has increased from 14,000 tons in 1878 to nearly 30,000 for the first six months of last year, and with one or two more shafts it might be increased to 500 tons a day. One other industry which the Chinese have adopted from Western ideas is the woollen factory, which is carried on by the aid of machinery imported from England, but not to any great extent. An unsuccessful attempt has been made also to bore petroleum wells in Formosa. These enterprises certainly are not numerous, but considering what China was as a nation within the memory of even young men of the present generation, they show, at least, that the *vis inertia* of the huge masses in that country is beginning to wear off, and that before long we may expect to see China an active and progressive nation.

FUNERAL OF SIR WILLIAM PALMER.—The remains of Sir William Palmer, late of the 18th Hussars, inventor of the well-known Palmer's revolver, were interred yesterday in Brompton Cemetery. Shortly before twelve o'clock the funeral cortege, consisting of an open car drawn by four horses in deeply fringed black housings, two mourning coaches, and several private carriages, started from the residence of the deceased, Earl's-court-square, and reached the cemetery at half-past noon. Amongst the mourners were Mr. John Palmer, C.M.G., of Comeragh, County Waterford, Captain Wray Palmer, R.N., Captain Edward Palmer, late 7th Hussars, Captain Henry Palmer, late 11th Hussars, and Sir William Palmer, late 18th Hussars, Major Adagh, R.E., C.B., and a large number of old brother officers, including many from the War Office, the India Office, and the Horse Guards. There were also present a considerable number of ladies, the majority carrying floral wreaths and crosses, and many personal friends and acquaintances, conspicuous among whom were Sir Henry James, the Attorney-General, colleague of the deceased in the representation of Taunton, and Sir John Hay. But the most remarkable feature in the crowd collected was a large number of working men from the estate of the deceased at Baron's Court, whose presence testified to the esteem in which the late Sir William Palmer was held by those in his employment. The mortuary chapel was a fine and comfortable grave, the Burial Service was read by the Rev. John Henry Cardwell, vicar of Saint Andrew's, Fulham. The coffin, of polished oak with brass mountings, bore the inscription:—"Major Sir William Palmer, C.B., M.P. Died 4th February 1882, aged 51 years." As it was laid in the private mausoleum, where already rested the ashes of the deceased's eldest son, it was strewn with floral tributes of sorrowful affection.

FIRE AT THE ALBERT HALL.—About six o'clock on Wednesday evening a fire broke out in the refreshment department of the Albert Hall, South Kensington.

gallon measure of spirit was used, and coming in contact with flame ignited, and set fire to the lower part of the refreshment department. The fire-engines were promptly at hand, and the fire was put out before more than local damage was done. Few of the thousands of persons who were at the time attended the performance of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" and Rossini's "Stabat Mater" by Mr. Barnby's society knew anything of the occurrence.

THE NATAL COLONISTS AND SIR HENRY BULWER.—Commenting on the appointment of Sir Henry Bulwer as Governor of the Colony, the *National Mercury* says:—"It is childish to suppose that Sir Henry Bulwer is coming here to do as he likes, and to carry out the decrees of Downing-street—whatever they may be—about this colony. The fact that he comes for two years only shows that he comes for a special purpose. It may be to do nothing—to leave matters as they are—"

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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 10-11, 1882.

KING WILLIAM'S MANIFESTO.

The manifesto of Saturday is King William's personal act. As the King's Prime Minister, Prince Bismarck had no choice but to countersign it. Yet, for affixing his signature, he is liable to be impeached by the Prussian Parliament. If a Minister do not agree with a decision of the King as incorporated in an act of Government, or do not choose to accept responsibility for it before the nation, he is free to resign, that he may not countersign the Royal decree or join in enforcing an equivocal law. If a subordinate official do differ from the policy of the Government, which is the King's policy, that he feels compelled by his conscience to assent to by his influence and vote, his duty equally to retire from a post he cannot justly occupy. While he retains it, he is bound, his King tells him, to co-operate with the Government, of which he implicitly forms a part, because he is bound to co-operate with the King, whose bread he eats. Prince Bismarck and his master's theory of the Royal prerogative does not differ essentially from the British. A British Sovereign, theoretically, is as unfettered in the exercise of his Royal powers as a Prussian Sovereign is asserted to be. If the Queen thought a Minister engaged in doubtful enterprises, or a legislative proposal improper, it would be just, in theory, for her duty to dismiss the Minister and veto the law. Her responsibility to the nation and the responsibility of her Ministers do not, in theory, emancipate her from the personal obligation to consult her individual conscience, or from her responsibility also to her. In practice a clear distinction is acknowledged between the Monarch's opinions as a Monarch and personally. The King of Prussia, being theoretically free in the exercise of the prerogative left to him, acts at the right of exercise his prerogative freely. Acts of Government, being in fact, his, he declares as his in fact. Incontrovertible evidence that they are, he informs his subjects, is to be seen in his signature appended to them. Practically, his interpretation of the Prussian Constitution, if carried out, lays a burden both upon him and upon his Ministers which neither will be able to bear. An autocrat has difficulty in reconciling himself to the modifications of policy enjoined by circumstances, rare and infrequent as they may be. No constitutional ruler's conscience or self-respect could stand the incessant strain of continual shiftings of position required to preserve his Government and the nation in amicable relations. According to the recent manifesto, should a Liberal Administration, as sooner or later it certainly will, succeed that led by Prince Bismarck, the Emperor William must be imagined to have turned Liberal, or to have had his individual will put in chains. Personal dignity exacts from the chief of a constitutional State that he should devise a *modus vivendi* for his double capacity of man and Sovereign. For statesmen in a country possessed of representative institutions it is an absolute condition of usefulness that both their Sovereign and themselves should interpret the responsibility they owe to the nation as signifying that their service is owed to the nation as well as to the Sovereign. The Emperor-King appears to hold that his Ministers are bound to take the whip from, and are not bound to take counsel with, his people. Prince Bismarck is tasting at this moment the sweets of such a doctrine. The Stuart Kings of England entertained the same notion as the Emperor William of the absence of distinction between the Monarch's personal and official qualities. They acted not very dissimilarly in their attempt to treat their Ministers as exclusively their own servants, and not servants of the nation. When an inferior functionary opposed the King's Government, he was speedily taught that the King personally controlled his Government's policy. If there is little fear that the present enunciation by the Emperor and his Chancellor of the worn-out Stuart hypothesis will be followed by its seventeenth century consequences, it is that neither are the Prussian and German Parliaments led by Pym and Hampden, nor is the House of Hohenzollern devoid of political instinct like the House of Stuart. Prince Bismarck may himself discover inconveniences in a theory of prerogative which, though formulated for the direct behoof of the Prussian Crown, would apply equally to all the other varieties and shades of German Royalty. At some near date, when he or a successor has repented of the endeavours to keep up obsolete traditions of the German nation's incompetence to decide on the management of national business, the obstinate separatism of minor rulers may prove a worse obstruction to German unity than Parliamentary claims to be self-governed. The motive in any case for setting up such a pretension at the present moment seems singularly inadequate. The Chancellor and his august master have combined to fulminate an assertion of divine right against the Prussian people because the rank and file of German civilians are suspected of having swelled with their votes the gigantic majority against the Chancellor's experiments in Socialism and Protectionism. Prussian officials have generally been supposed to be more than sufficiently docile to their Government and despotism to their fellow-subjects. Prince Bismarck makes too

candid a confession of the irretrievable unpopularity of his recent policy when he offers, in Saturday's rescript, to the well-drilled Prussian bureaucracy the alternative of siding with the Government against the nation or being cashiered. He ought to perceive that it is time to come to terms with his countrymen, who cannot help admitting and revering him, when he finds himself reduced to terrorise his own clerks for their votes.—Times.

MR. GLADSTONE'S LEGAL APPOINTMENTS.

By elevating Sir John Holker, a staunch Conservative, to the vacant position of Lord Justice of Appeal, the Government has set an excellent precedent, which will probably be followed only in rare instances. The established rule in English political life is that Judgeships are part of the leaves and fishes which are distributed, as they fall, to distinguished and capable lawyers belonging to the party in power; and our present Ministry has not hitherto deviated from this ancient custom with regard to judicial prizes. Now, however, that the lamented decease of Lord Justice Lush has placed another coveted legal post at his disposal, Mr. Gladstone has shown great good sense and much generosity in bestowing it upon one so well able in every way to add lustre to his high dignity as Sir John Holker, the present Conservative member for Preston. Some other names had been mentioned for the post, and as a matter of course the appointment was first of all offered to the law officers of the crown for the time being. These are Sir Henry James, the Liberal Attorney-General, and Sir Farrer Herschell, Solicitor-General, neither of whom appears willing to exchange the freedom and excitement of Parliamentary conflict for the safe repose of the Judicial Bench. Since the present Ministry came into office, there has been a constant succession of deaths or resignations of distinguished Judges. A perfect plethora of legal appointments has consequently fallen into Mr. Gladstone's hands, and the Bench has been in a state of change, which, happening coincidentally with the new arrangements necessitated by the amended Judicature Acts, has given a slightly kaleidoscopic character to our Courts of Justice. A solicitor or a barrister who had gone abroad three years ago, and who returned to London now, would hardly find one of our Courts either of Equity or Common Law in which extensive changes of judicial "personnel" had not taken place. Among those whose death has removed from us can be mentioned the late Lord Chief Justice of England, Sir Alexander Cockburn, whose office is now filled by Lord Coleridge; Lord Justice Thesiger, cut off in comparative youth; Chief Baron Kelly, and Lords Justices James and Lush. Many retirements have also occurred, such as those of Vice-Chancellor Malins, of Lord Justice Bramwell, and others. This havoc among the occupants of the Bench is something unprecedented, occurring as it did within a very short space of time; honoured names, noted individualities have gone down in the rush, and we are in presence of a new Bench, with a few survivors of old times. That the reputation of the collective "Judiciary" has not suffered must be acknowledged to be a solid tribute to the Judges selected, and also indicates the inexhaustible material for judicial appointments existing in our chief forensic champions, the men who go down to the law courts and draw truth up from its well every day of the sittings of the High Court. No doubt it requires peculiar qualities to make a good Appeal Court Judge. The tribunal is a somewhat anomalous one, inasmuch as it is only intermediate, and its decisions can be reviewed again by the House of Lords. At the time of the passing of the Judicature Acts it was intended that the Appeal Court should be the final tribunal for the whole realm; but custom conquered, and the House of Lords retained its ancient privilege of being the highest Court of Justice, beyond which there lies no appeal except to the Crown itself. It has been found in practice, however, that the Court of Appeal, despite its intermediate character, has a great deal of work to do, and performs a most useful function. For instance, litigants dissatisfied with the ruling of the Judge, or the finding of a jury, take their cases to this Court for review, but it hardly ever happens that they go beyond, and hammer at the august portals of the House of Lords. Great respect is naturally and properly felt for a tribunal which numbers among its members such intellects as those of Sir George Jessel, Lord Justices Brett, Cotton, and Baggallay, and occasionally a couple of present or past Lord Chancellors. It is to this dignified body that Sir John Holker is now transferred, without the preliminary step of a pious Judicship, and his appointment happily shows that political passions do not in this country run so deplorably high as to blind statesmen to the legitimate claims of able men among their political adversaries.—Daily Telegraph.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS IN GERMANY.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Tuesday night:—The Imperial Decree still remains the chief, almost the only, topic of public and private discussion. Such exchange, which is almost always favourably affected by Conservative measures, has been unable either yesterday or to-day to recover from the excitement and depression produced by the proclamation. Private criticisms naturally differ very widely, from the utterances of the Press. Under pressure of the rigorous Press Law the newspapers do not dare to reproduce or depict either the general opinion at home or remarks from abroad. Enough, however, remains to show that, according to the views of the Berlin, the German, and the Foreign Press, Prussia and all Germany now have to pass through a very grave crisis. Not even all the Conservative organs express satisfaction with the Imperial declaration. The *Post*, true to its own judgment upon Herr von Pottkammer's statements with regard to official restrictions itself to finding the origin of the conflict in the fact that Herr Bennigsen once made his entrance into the Ministry dependent on the entrance of some partisans. Only the extreme Conservative journals fully approve the Prussian Government's action. The really Liberal Press of all shades of opinion comments rather freely on the declaration, claiming a right to do so because a responsible Minister, Prince Bismarck, countersigned it. The *Dolme Gazette* says that nobody attempts to touch or to doubt the Monarchical Constitution of the country. Why, then, do things always look as if such doubts were really entertained? The *Weiser Zeitung* wonders that the Pro-

clamation, being an Imperial utterance, is countersigned, since it is thereby laid open to public discussion. It is curious that the Crown has had had advice if it has been urged to use means for securing election results other than such as express the conviction of the population. The Crown by doing this will be running into the danger of self-deception as to its people's views. The left wing of the Progressives—that is, the partisans of Herr Eugene Richter—ask for a law of incompatibility, whereas Herr Hanel's followers demand a law of Ministerial responsibility which has been already promised by the Constitution, but never yet carried out.

THE AMENITIES OF COOMASSIE.

It appears that the dreadful report of a massacre of two hundred young girls at Coomassie was too true. They were collected by raiding amongst the tribes bordering the coast, and were taken to Coomassie, where they were to be sold in building a new palace for the King. After one has surmised one's natural horror, curious reflections arise:—Is there any part of the world, saving the Chinese Empire, where a kindred superstition has not made its victims? and the Chinese Empire is excepted rather because we know so little of it. It is a barbarous and credit that an universal practice was not followed there. There are few buildings in Europe dating from the earlier Middle Ages which have not a legend of the sort attached to them; and a legend prevalent among all nations is that of a young girl who, in the Anglo-Saxon, from the Kremlin to London Bridge, most certainly records a general instinct of humanity in its younger and darker stage. This class of legend is usually divided into two branches, of which each has examples innumerable. The one is that of a girl who, in exacting similarity to this Ashanti reproduction—the burial of a young girl alive, or of her slaughtered body in the foundations of a cathedral, or church, or bridge. The other form is more poetic. Driven to despair by sinking, the maiden, or the child, is carried to a structure, the master-mason vows—sometimes to the Devil, sometimes to a power unnamed—that he will sacrifice his dearest treasure if this evil influence be stopped. It is invariably a woman, or a girl, who, in this case, is the victim. The masons build her up living in the wall, and thus destroy the spell. Of the scores of myths and ballads founded on this tragedy the most beautiful, perhaps, is that of the famous monastery of Argis, in the Pyrenees. 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Great Britain

LONDON, JANUARY 10-11, 1882.

KING WILLIAM'S MANIFESTO.

The manifesto of Saturday is King William's personal act. As the King's Prime Minister, Prince Bismarck had no choice but to countersign it. Yet, for affixing his signature, he is liable to be impeached by the Prussian Parliament. If a Minister does not agree with a decision of the King as incorporated in an act of Government, or do not choose to accept responsibility for it before the nation, he is free to resign, that he may not countersign the Royal decree or join in enforcing an equivocal law. If a subordinate official so differ from the policy of the Government, which is the King's policy, that he feels compelled by his conscience to resign, he is free to do so, but he cannot justly occupy a post. While he remains it is bound, the King tells him, to co-operate with the Government, of which he implicitly forms a part, because he is bound to co-operate with the King, whose broad he eats. Prince Bismarck and his master's theory of the Royal prerogative does not differ essentially from the British. A British Sovereign, theoretically, is as unfettered in the exercise of his Royal powers as a Prussian Sovereign is asserted to be. If the Queen thought a Minister engaged in doubtful enterprises, or a legislative proposal immoral, it would be in her duty to dismiss the Minister and veto the law. Her responsibility to the nation and the responsibility of her Ministers do not, in theory, emanate from her personal obligation to consult her individual conscience, or from her responsibility also to her. In practice a clear distinction is acknowledged between the Monarch's opinions as a Monarch and personally. The King of Prussia, being theoretically free in the exercise of the prerogative left to him, arrogates the right to exercise his prerogative freely. Acts of Government, being in form his, he declares are his in fact. Incontrovertible evidence that they are, he informs his subjects, is to be seen in his signature appended to them. Practically, his interpretation of the Prussian Constitution, if carried out, lays a burden both upon him and upon his Ministers which neither will be able to bear. An autocrat has difficulty in reconciling himself to the modifications of policy enjoined by circumstances, rare and infrequent as they may be. No constitutional ruler's conscience or self-respect could stand the incessant strain of continual shifting of position required to preserve his Government and the nation in amicable relations. According to the recent manifesto, should a Liberal Administration as sooner or later certainly will, succeed that by Prince Bismarck, the Emperor William must be imagined to have turned Liberal, or to have had his individual will put in chains. Personal dignity exacts from the chief of a constitutional State that he should devise a *modus vivendi* for his double capacity of man and Sovereign. For statesmen in a country possessed of representative institutions it is an absolute condition of usefulness that both their Sovereign and themselves should interpret the responsibility they owe to the nation as signifying that their service is owed to the nation as well as to the Sovereign. The Emperor-King appears to hold that his Ministers are bound to take the whip from him, and are not bound to take counsel with his people. Prince Bismarck is tating at this moment the sweets of such a doctrine. The Stuart Kings of England entertained the same notion as the Emperor William of the absolute distinction between the Monarch's personal and official qualities. They acted not very dissimilarly in their attempt to treat their Ministers as exclusively their own servants, and not servants of the nation. When an inferior functionary opposed the King's Government, he was speedily taught that the King personally considered that the present policy of the Government was not the policy of the Emperor. If there is a little fear that the present indication by the Emperor and his Chancellor of the worn-out Stuart hypothesis will be followed by its seventeenth century consequences, it is that neither are the Prussian and German Parliaments led by Fyves and Hampdens, nor is the House of Hohenzollern devoid of political instinct like the House of Stuart. Prince Bismarck may himself discover inconveniences in a theory of prerogative which, though elaborated for the direct behoof of the Prussian Crown, would apply equally to all the other varieties and shades of German Royalty. At some near date, when he or a successor has repented of the endeavour to keep up obsolete traditions of the German nation's incompetence to decide on the management of national business, the obstinate separatism of minor rulers may prove a worse obstruction to German unity than Parliamentary claims to be self-governed. The motive in any case for setting up such a pretension at the present moment seems singularly inadequate. The Chancellor and his august master have combined to fulminate an assertion of divine right against the Prussian people because the rank and file of German civilians are suspected of having swelled with their votes the gigantic majority against the Chancellor's experiments in Socialism and Protectionism. Prussian officials have generally been supposed to be more than despoised to their fellow-subjects. Prince Bismarck makes too

candid a confession of the irretrievable unpopularity of his recent policy when he offers, in Saturday's rescript, to the well-drilled Prussian bureaucracy the alternative of siding with the Government against the nation or being cashiered. He ought to perceive that it is time to come to terms with his countrymen, who cannot help admiring and revering him, when he finds himself reduced to terrorise his own clerks for their votes.—*Times*.

MR. GLADSTONE'S LEGAL APPOINTMENTS.

By elevating Sir John Holker, a staunch Conservative, to the vacant position of Lord Justice of Appeal, the Government has set an excellent precedent, which will probably be followed only in rare instances. The established rule in English political life is that Judgeships are part of the leaves and fishes which are distributed, as they fall in, to distinguished and capable lawyers belonging to the party in power; and our present Ministry has not hitherto deviated from this ancient custom with regard to judicial prizes. Now, however, that the lamented decease of Lord Justice Lush has placed another coveted legal post at his disposal, Mr. Gladstone has shown great good sense and much generosity in bestowing it upon one so well able in every way to add lustre to his high dignity as Sir John Holker, the present Conservative member for Preston. Some other names had been mentioned for the post, and as a matter of course the appointment was first of all offered to the law officers of the Crown for the time being. These are Sir Henry James, the Liberal Attorney-General, and Sir Farrer Herschell, Solicitor-General, neither of whom appears willing to exchange the freedom and excitement of Parliamentary conflict for the safe repose of the Judicial Bench. Since the present Ministry came into office, there has been a constant succession of deaths or resignations of distinguished Judges. A perfect plethora of legal appointments has consequently fallen into Mr. Gladstone's hands, and the Bench has been in a state of change, which, happening coincidentally with the new arrangements necessitated by the amended Judiciary Acts, has given a slightly kaleidoscopic character to our Courts of Justice. A solicitor or a barrister who had gone abroad three years ago, and who returned to London now, would hardly find one of our Courts either of Equity or Common Law in which extensive changes of judicial "personal" had not taken place. Among those whom death has removed from the Bench, we mention the late Lord Chief Justice of England, Sir Alexander Cockburn, whose office is now filled by Lord Coleridge; Lord Justice Thesiger, cut off in comparative youth; Chief Baron Kelly, and Lords Justices James and Lush. Many retirements have also occurred, such as those of Vice-Chancellor Malins, of Lord Justice Bramwell, and others. This having among the occupants of the Bench is something unprecedented, occurring as it did within a very short space of time; honoured names, noted individualities have gone down in the rush, and we are in presence of a new Bench, with a few survivors of old times. That the reputation of the collective "Judiciary" has not suffered must be acknowledged to be a solid tribute to the Judges selected, and also indicates the inexhaustible material for judicial appointments existing in our chief forensic champions, the men who go down to the law courts and draw truth up from its well every day of the sittings of the High Court. No doubt it requires peculiar qualities to make a good Appeal Court Judge. The tribunal is a somewhat anomalous one, inasmuch as it is only intermediate, and its decisions can be reviewed again by the House of Lords. At the time of the passing of the Judiciary Acts it was intended that the Appeal Court should be the final tribunal for the whole realm; but custom, conquest, and the House of Lords retained its ancient privilege of being the highest Court of Justice, beyond which there lies no appeal, except to the Crown itself. It has been found in practice, however, that the Court of Appeal, despite its intermediate character, has a great deal of work to do, and performs a most useful function. For instance, litigants dissatisfied with the ruling of the Judge, or the finding of a jury, take their cases to this Court for review, but it hardly ever happens that they go beyond, and hammer at the great portals of the House of Lords. Great respect is naturally and properly felt for a tribunal which numbers among its members such intellects as those of Sir George Jessel, Lords Justices Brett, Cotton, and Baggallay, and occasionally a couple of present or past Lord Chancellors. It is to this dignified body that Sir John Holker is now transferred, without the preliminary step of a pious Judgeship, and his appointment happily shows that political passions do not in this country run so deplorably high as to blind statesmen to the legitimate claims of able men among their political adversaries.—*Daily Telegraph*.

THE AMITIES OF COOMASSIE.

It appears that the dreadful report of a massacre of two hundred young girls at Coomassie was too true. They were collected by raiding amongst the tribes bordering on Ashanti, for the object of mixing their blood with the mortar used in building a new palace for the King. After all has surmounted one's natural horror, curious reflections arise:—Is there any part of the world, saving the Chinese Empire, where a kindred superstition has not made its victims? and the Chinese Empire is excepted rather because we know so little of its antiquity than because we can credit that an universal practice was not followed there. There are few buildings in Europe dating from the earlier Middle Ages which have not a legend of the sort attached to them; and a legend prevalent among all races and conditions, from the slave to the Anglo-Teuton, from the Kremlin to London Bridge, most certainly records a general instinct of humanity in its younger and darker stage. This class of legend is usually divided into two branches, of which each has examples in the legends of the East. The one is the case exactly similar to the Ashanti reproduction—the burial of a young girl alive, or of her slaughtered body in the foundations of a cathedral, or church, or bridge. The other form is more poetic. Driven to despair by sinkings of the earth, or crumbling of the upper structure, the vaster-mason vows—some named that he will sacrifice his dearest treasure if this evil influence be stopped. It is invariably a woman or a girl—his wife, his betrothed, or his daughter. The masons build her up living in the wall, and thus destroy the spell. Of the scores of myths

and ballads founded on this tragedy the most beautiful, perhaps, is that of the famous monastery of Argis, in Valaichia. If the variety of the story is considered thoughtfully, it is evident that they are based, in effect, on the same idea. To ensure stability in the great work, evil fortune must be propitiated by a sacrifice of transcendent value. The dearest and most beautiful thing which is women. When the theme is general, so to speak; when the story has no individual hero, girls are made victims without identification; when the story is personal, the wife or child of the hero is introduced. Practically, such practices cannot be allowed in this age of the world, if we have power to stop them. But we may think less bitterly of negro superstition when we remember that our own forefathers used the same horrid rites.—*Evening Standard*.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS IN GERMANY.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Tuesday night:—The Imperial Decree still remains the chief, almost the only, topic of public and private discussion. The Exchange, which is almost always favourably affected by Conservative measures, has been unable either yesterday or to-day to recover from the excitement and depression produced by the proclamation. Private criticisms naturally differ, often very widely, from the utterances of the Press. The Press, however, regard to the law the newspapers do not dare to reproduce or depict either the general opinion at home or remarks from abroad. Enough, however, remains to show that, according to the views of the Berlin, the German, and the Foreign Press, Prussia and all Germany now have to pass through a very grave crisis. Not even all the Conservative organs express satisfaction with the Imperial declaration. The *Post*, true to its own judgment upon Herr von Puttkammer's attitude towards the Reichstag, restricts itself to finding the origin of the conflict in the fact that Herr Bennigsen once made his entrance into the Ministry dependent on the entrance of some partisans. Only the extreme Conservative journals fully approve the Imperial decree.

The really Liberal Press of all shades of opinion comments rather freely on the declaration, claiming a right to do so because a responsible Minister, Prince Bismarck, countersigned it. The *Collegium* writes: "No body attempts to touch or to doubt the Monarchical Constitution of the country. Why, then, do things always look as if such doubts were really entertained?" The *Westen Zeitung* wonders that the *Proclamation* is being so much attacked and counteracted, since it is thereby laid open to public discussion. It believes that the Crown has had bad advice if it has been urged to use means for securing Election results other than such as express the confidence of the majority of the Reichstag. In doing this will be running into the danger of self-deception as to the people's real views. The left wing of the Progressives—that is, the partisans of Herr Eugene Richter—ask for the President of incompatibility, whereas Herr Bismarck's followers, who have admitted his responsibility by the Constitution, but never yet carried out. The *Vossische Zeitung* states the differences between the Prussian and the German Constitutions. The Government's acts of the President, which have been admitted by the acts of the German Emperor or Prussian King, as regards the Empire. How, it asks, will Prince Bismarck, who countersigned the Declaration, answer for not having called the Reichstag to account to such an anomaly, nor to have allowed the Empire to be controlled by Prussia. Nobody will gainsay that this want of perception is highly regrettable.

SIR W. ARMSTRONG ON NATIONAL DEFENCE.

Sir W. G. Armstrong, C.B., F.R.S., delivering a lecture at the Institution of Civil Engineers, after tracing in its various phases the contest between gun and armour, he said it had placed our naval authorities under extreme difficulty in deciding upon questions of armament. He not only drew out that armour was unavailing against torpedo attack and ramming, but we were justified in concluding that every attempt to increase resistance to projectiles would be quickly followed by a corresponding increase in the power of the enemy. What better conclusion, like the *Warrior*, were placed all over with armour 4 1/2 inches thick—a thickness which could now be pierced with field-pieces. To resist the most powerful guns now afloat, armour of at least two feet in thickness was required, and in order to reconcile the constantly increasing thickness with the weight which the ship was capable of carrying, it had been necessary to restrict the area of armoured surface to ever-narrowing limits, leaving a large portion of the ship unprotected. He pointed out that the enormous vessels which the Italians were now building the armour would be withdrawn from every part except the battery, where guns of 100 tons would be placed, and where the armour would be confined to a narrow belt of protection. He pointed out that the projectiles could destroy would be kept below water level, and, so far as artillery fire was concerned, the ships would be secured against sinking by means of an underwater deck and ample division into compartments. He pointed out that the best prospect of finally there was now than we had ten years ago? As to absolute finality, it would probably never be reached; but the country might take some comfort in the reflection that every stage of progress would be followed by a further development. There was already no substantial room for improvement in the accuracy of guns; and as regarded power, we were nearly approaching the limit at which the security of real power would be brought into full play the power of the enemy. We might go on building larger guns almost without limit, though he doubted the policy of so doing; but mere increase of size did not revolutionise systems. There seemed, therefore, to be more hope of progress in the direction of the smaller gun, but, whether this were so or not, we could not, without danger, remain passive. What, then, should our Government do in regard to the great work of re-arming the Fleet? He took it for granted that, as a new ship would be armed with the best guns that could be now made, and that the more important of the older vessels would speedily receive the same advantage; but beyond this, so long as experience of novelties was deficient, it was a case for cautious procedure. In the meantime, no expense should be spared in judicious experiments, seeing that the expense of experiments was trifling in comparison with that of mistakes. Above all, the Government should pursue such a course as would bring into full play the abundant engineering resources of this highly mechanical country for increasing the efficiency of our National Defences.

EMIGRATION TO BORNEO.—The *London and China Telegraph* states:—Sir Walter Medhurst, formerly Her Majesty's Consul-General at Shanghai, has been deputed by the British North Borneo Company to proceed to Borneo and China, with the view of organising the Chinese Labour Department for emigration to Borneo. Sir Walter Medhurst will leave by the mail of the 27th inst., via Brindisi.

nations continued to use it, because nothing but the experience of an actual war would remove the question as to its possible utility; but considering the indigestible value of numerous fleet of swift and powerfully-armed ships, built with a view of obtaining the maximum amount of unarmoured defence, and considering that such vessels, unlike armoured-clads, could never grow much out of date, it did seem to be expedient that the chief expenditure of this country should be upon ships of that description. Lightness should be the special aim in the construction of such vessels. Referring to the light unarmoured ships designed by Mr. George Watson, and lately built for the Foreign Powers, the President said it was a very serious question what could be done in the event of a number of such vessels being lost upon our commerce. At present there was not such a ship in our fleet as would carry an armament competent to engage them, that could overtake them in pursuit, or evade their attack when prudence dictated a retreat. Confidence was often expressed in our mercantile marine being capable of far-fetched emergency, and that it was fit to be converted into cruisers; but where there were to be found amongst trading or passenger steamers vessels possessing a speed of 16 knots, with engines and boilers below water-level, and having an under-water deck, it was difficult to see how they could be converted into cruisers, or how they could be adapted to the purposes of war. It was alarming to think how unprepared we were to repress the ravages which even a small number of swift marauding vessels, properly armed and armed, might inflict upon the management of the enormous property we had at all times afloat, and how little we could hope to clear the sea of such destructive enemies by cruisers improvised out of ready-made steamers destitute of all the conditions necessary to render them efficient for such a service. The President then adverted to the harbour defence. He pointed out that many of our ironclad forts had already outlived the stage of artillery progress for which they were adapted. He expressed his opinion as to the best method of rendering large guns effective in shore batteries. He dwelt upon the value of gun boats, considered as floating gun-carriages, and used in combination with torpedo craft and submarine mines; all of which, he suggested, might be converted into the management of trained naval and engineering volunteers resident on the spot. He said it would be a grand development of the Volunteer movement, of which this country was so justly proud, if it were thus to be converted into a system of coast defence, and he pointed out that the use of submerged torpedoes was concerned, a project of entrusting their employment to a corps of Volunteer Engineers was already under consideration. On the subject of artillery, he described the progress of gun manufacture since the introduction of rifled ordnance, prior to which a gun was simply a tube of cast iron or bronze closed at one end. He also discussed the question what, under the present condition and prospects of steel manufacture, should be our practice in relation to the use of that material for artillery purposes. He was then led to speak of a system of construction which had not passed through the experimental stage, but which, from the results it had already given, promised to attain a wide application. He referred to the system in which the coils surrounding the central tube consisted of steel wire, or ribbons of steel, wound spirally upon the tube. A gun constructed upon this principle had already been tried, and had given results which, in relation to its weight, weight, and power, were of a most extraordinary character. The French were at present engaged in making experimental guns upon the same general principle. He then discussed the subject of breech loading and muzzle loading, and the various forms of rifling. He also described the many changes that had been found necessary in the form and manufacture of powder for heavy ordnance, and the difficulties which still remained to be overcome. As to the mounting of guns in forts and ships, it was certain that machinery could do much to dispense with the working of the guns, and that engine power must be used to economise labour and avoid exposure of the men. Breech-loading guns, carriages fitted with all modern appliances, shot and powder lifts, mechanical rammers and torpedoes, all combined with steam or electric machinery, or with both constituted mechanisms requiring to be supervised by officers qualified as engineers, and to be handled by men trained in the use of machinery. Sir W. Armstrong observed that our Navy, as at present armed with guns which could not be expected to contend successfully with the best modern guns that could be used against them. Happily, most of the older ships of Foreign Powers were in the same predicament; but all their new vessels, and older ones, were being armed with guns with artillery which, weight for weight, was far superior in power to that of our Navy. Our service guns had simply been overtaken in that rapid progress of artillery which had been going on for the last eight or ten years; and it might be doubted whether any advantage would be gained by the present re-arming, while it would certainly have involved great sacrifice and confusion of ammunition and stores. But a new departure could not longer be delayed. An irresistible demand had arisen for breech-loading guns, and it was imperative to combine, with the introduction of that system, such other modifications of construction as would realise the increase of power which we now knew to be attainable. He pointed out that the demand for the prospect of finally there was now than we had ten years ago? As to absolute finality, it would probably never be reached; but the country might take some comfort in the reflection that every stage of progress would be followed by a further development. There was already no substantial room for improvement in the accuracy of guns; and as regarded power, we were nearly approaching the limit at which the security of real power would be brought into full play the power of the enemy. We might go on building larger guns almost without limit, though he doubted the policy of so doing; but mere increase of size did not revolutionise systems. There seemed, therefore, to be more hope of progress in the direction of the smaller gun, but, whether this were so or not, we could not, without danger, remain passive. What, then, should our Government do in regard to the great work of re-arming the Fleet? He took it for granted that, as a new ship would be armed with the best guns that could be now made, and that the more important of the older vessels would speedily receive the same advantage; but beyond this, so long as experience of novelties was deficient, it was a case for cautious procedure. In the meantime, no expense should be spared in judicious experiments, seeing that the expense of experiments was trifling in comparison with that of mistakes. Above all, the Government should pursue such a course as would bring into full play the abundant engineering resources of this highly mechanical country for increasing the efficiency of our National Defences.

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

DISCOVERY OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

A Dublin correspondent wrote on Tuesday: The police in Cork have received information of the concealment of a large quantity of arms and ammunition about the city. A watch is being kept on the places in order to see if any attempt will be made to remove them. The seizure this morning is but the beginning of a more extensive capture, and it is believed that many arrests will follow. The police are offering rewards for the discovery of the places where the arms and ammunition are hidden. During the past month the Cork police in plain clothes have been keeping careful watch in certain quarters of the city, owing to information respecting the concealment of arms and ammunition. The discovery referred to arose under the following circumstances: During the past month the Cork police in plain clothes have been keeping careful watch in certain quarters of the city, owing to information respecting the concealment of arms and ammunition. 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enthusiasm, in the hope that her health might be benefited by a change of air. The party, however, would be able to rejoin him in Canada early in the spring. The party then boarded for the landing-stage, and proceeded on board the steamer *Fairy Queen* to the Allan mail steamer *Parisian*, where her Royal Highness bade the Marquis an affectionate good-bye. The Princess returned to London by the first of the clock train. The following is a complete list of the party by whom His Excellency the Governor-General is accompanied to Canada: Lady Frances Balfour, Mr. R. Balfour, Mrs. W. Bagot, Colonel F. De Winton, Mrs. H. De Winton, Miss De Winton, Master I. De Winton, and infant; Mr. Mackenzie, a servant, and the attendance upon his Excellency and suite.

The Duke of Cambridge returned to Gloucester House, Park-lane, on Tuesday night from attending the funeral of General Sir John James Macdonald at Thorpe, near Brighthelmston.

Branch Offices:—LONDON, 168, STRAND; NICE, 15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

PRICE 40 CENTS

THE COMING ELECTIONS.

opening Session is likely to be known in Parliamentary history as the *Culture Session*. One of the main questions of controversy to be devoted will be the Reform of Parliamentary Procedure. Upon that question Mr. Raikes, from his experience as Chairman of Committees during the last Parliament, is in a position to speak as one possessing high authority. He is the first Chairman of Committees who has to devote attention to the almost irrepressible nuisance, in his manner of meeting the novel difficulties which hampered him in the discharge of his duties he is admitted on the whole, even by the Irish members, to have displayed not only firmness and courtesy, but a swift competence on emergency that more than once enabled him to save the House from grave perils on critical occasions. Not only by his conduct in the Chair, but by his published writings, Mr. Raikes has shown that he has a thorough practical knowledge of details in the management of the business of the House, which in the discussions on the Ministerial proposals will enable him to give the House not only sound advice but safe guidance. For this reason, if for no other, the country will be glad that he is to fill the place vacated by the well-merited promotion of Sir J. Holker. In view of the inevitable result of a contest in a borough of such pronounced Conservative opinions as Preston, it ought to be, in the circumstances, a serious question for the Liberals whether they will not be sacrificing the interests of the country to those of faction, if they put forward a candidate of such liabilities to the cost and trouble of contesting the House. It is a misfortune that at any time the House of Commons should be deprived of the services of men like Mr. Raikes—no matter what their Parliamentary connections may be. But as the question of coercion substituting for freedom of debate is to be dealt with next Session, the absence of such men from the deliberations of the House would amount to something more than a misfortune. Hence, apart altogether from the conspicuous loyalty with which Preston has always supported Conservative candidates, it may be taken for granted that they will be able to receive the undivided support of the members of their own party, and we hope that it may also be his happy fortune to command the undisguised sympathy, or at least meet the softened hostility even of his political antagonists. But of the contest in the North Riding it would be hardly prudent to speak so confidently. The fight in this Constituency is likely to be unusually keen and severe. The Liberals are not content with dividing the representation of the Division; they have resolved to monopolise it; and it would be idle to ignore the fact that in Mr. Samuel Rowlandson, who carries the banner of the Farmers' Alliance, they possess a candidate whom it would be hardly possible to ignore in the North Riding. He is a voluble speaker at agricultural meetings, and a constant attendant at cattle shows, where he sometimes officiates as a judge. A gentleman who in this way keeps his name steadily for some years before the bucolic public, has always a certain hold upon the sympathies of rural electors—a hold which Party managers, if they be wise, will be very slow to disregard. Mr. Rowlandson is, moreover, by no means parsimonious in pledges. He is willing to vote for the abolition of the Law of Distress, for Representative and Franchise Equalisation of Town and Country, for the Franchise of the Tenant Right, and a Readjustment, in the farmer's interest, of the Charges levied by Railway Companies for the Carriage of Agricultural Produce. In a word, he, as literally as possible, puts forward as his political Confession of Faith the familliar programme of the Farmers' Alliance. Such assurances as he gives, we must remind the electors of the North Riding, cost little, and may mean less. The cheapest plan to adopt for finding favour in the eyes of men whose votes are being angled for is to promise to give them what they want, while concealing from them the practical obstacles that may stand in the immediate or eventual realisation of their desires. But, looking at the two rival candidates in the North Riding, and keeping in view the proverbial shrewdness of the "Northern Farmer," it is hard to believe that specious pledges will decide the issue. Mr. Rowlandson, in fact, ought to find in Mr. Dawney an opponent who, apart from his political utterances, bears a name which is one to conjure with in the district. He is a member of an old county family, and he has on his side not only the influence which supported his predecessor, Viscount Helmshley, but much more besides, which Lord Helmshley could not command. As a daring and skilful sportsman, and one who has risked his life in the stant lands in the service of the country, he appeals to every instinct characteristic of Yorkshiremen. Then he will receive the support not only of the Conservative landowners, but also of a great number of the most influential of the resident gentry who have hitherto attached themselves to the opposite Party connection.—*Standard*.

of rational inference, or what is called centralization, which would have been rather to draw us away from that old principle of English institutions which lies at the very root of them, viz., the principle that the local populations should have the management of their own affairs. But, apart from that, the demand for more efficient public exchequer might not be an unreasonable demand." It is based upon several considerations. One of them is that at the time when the present charges were fixed upon the country, the population was small, and of the country was comparatively small, and it was felt, and it would be reasonable, that the personal property should bear a larger share of the charge. That may be so. Another consideration is that changes are introduced in the different districts of the country. For example, there are some parts of this parish of which the liability to rates has been very considerably altered by the Legislature during the last few years; and, in consequence of places upon the shoulders of the occupier the immediate charge, which presses severely upon him at the time when new rates are introduced or when old rates are increased, is borne by the landlord. I am sure, with all, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, deserve and call for great attention. The mode of meeting the public emergencies in these matters is much too complicated for me to enter upon at the present moment. We are determining to do so as soon as we can, and energy, and we hope to bring it under the early attention of Parliament. I say the early attention of Parliament, because we are obliged now, if we speak of introducing anything like a new plan, to speak with great reserve, inasmuch as we know that the House of Parliament have to take the view for purposes the very reverse of those for which they were intended. They are used very much for preventing any legislation at all—(hear,—hear.)—and therefore, I may say, of such magnitude that her Majesty's Government will have to deal with it in the coming session. (Cheers.) Before bringing one great legislative measure of reform, it will be necessary to put the House of Commons in a condition to pass measures of that kind, and duties; and I earnestly hope that in the efforts we may make towards that end we shall receive the energetic support of public opinion. (When that matter is disposed of I don't know anything that will stand between us and the undertaking.) I think that, in connection with these questions—local government and the expenditure of local taxes—in such a way as I hope will be found to meet reasonable expectations. I am not aware of any other place where the same question unless that I ought to make a confession and administer a caution. (Laughter and cheers.) It is all very well—it may be all very right, perhaps, to provide that the rates should be paid by the farmer, and not exclusively as it now stands; but before we when we speak of prospective arrangement it may be very right to provide them assistance in bearing the charges of these rates such as I have already glanced at. But if we consider the permanent improvement of the occupier of the land, must be borne in mind that whatever is the case the rates in rural districts will ultimately come back to the landlord. (Hear, hear.) You may get a great deal of benefit from it in the meantime, but the rates will be paid by the occupier upon the farm are £50 in the year, and these rates are reduced by public measures to £25 eventually the farmer and his family disappear altogether, and a new tenant comes in, and the new tenant will give £35 more rent for the same amount of stock, whereas he had done, because every tenant who puts to himself the question as to what amount of rent he can afford to pay will put against himself any rates he have to pay in addition to those rates. He will favour any reduction in those rates. Therefore, the effect of the reduction of those rates will tell for the benefit of the landlord. Therefore, as one interested in the landlord, I should be glad to see the reduction of the rates of the country, and the reduction of the rates alone would be that which would provide for the benefit of the tenant farming through all time. For the benefit of the existing farmer I hope it will provide, but, as to the benefit of the successor on the farm, that is another question altogether, and one which will be one the exclusive benefit of which will probably be found to be only felt by the landlord. Do not suppose me to say that that is not a reason why the thing should not be done; but it is certainly a reason for considering whether the landlord is ultimately to receive a great benefit at the expense of the general body of taxpayers, or from a charge upon any of the taxes of the country, that would not be reason for the introduction of such advantages which the landlord now enjoys in regard to rates; because, as they were probably aware, whereas personal property, which included farming stock, is taxed very heavily upon the owner or the owner or when it passes to a successor, and I give it as my opinion that if the landlord is to be a receiver of great ultimate benefit by the reduction of rates at the cost of the general public, it would be right that the amount should be taken off that by the landlord who would be the person to suffer on the death of the previous possessor. There are a variety of subjects upon which I do not wish to detain you at any length, because I should feel myself guilty of imperfection if I did not make recommendations to you upon the matters which you are carrying on your business. But this

ECHOES.

It is a very sad thing that he utterly despised
—to find that the little Pandora's box of Tun-
bridge Wells ware, privately presented to one
many years since, and from which so many
evils and distempers have issued, has disinte-
grated with the dry rot, and that even Hope
and the noblest of the nation have been able
of writing, altogether hopeless of being able
to persuade those disastrous personages, the
writers of political leading articles in the
newspapers, to use an obvious English equiv-
alent for the French word "Clôture."
The noblest of the nation have been able
since we have the sonorous English equiv-
alent ready to our hand—is quoted in the *St.
James's Gazette* of Jan. 9, some half a dozen
times. There is a leading article entitled
"The Clôture" in the *World* of this week. I
have seen it quoted in the *Standard* and
many of the leading papers, and in the com-
mending of Parliament the political leader
writers, all over the country, will be "talking
the leg off an iron pit," so to speak, about
"a clôture;" and Melingo, that fervid anti-
"ministerialist," will be vehemently declaring
that "the Clôture is the Clôture of the
Constitutional Club," and "We don't want
no Clôture in this country."

"It is always considered," wrote Sydney
Smith, "as a piece of impertinence in Eng-
land, if a man with less than two or three
thousand a year has any opinions at all on
the subject of Clôture; and I have known a
man with three thousand a year; if I were Professor
Thomson, F.R.S., or the Rev. Gyles
Wapshott, D.D., or Mr. Nimblepence,
M.P., or even My Lord Tomnoddy, I might
persuade people to listen to me on the matter
of Clôture; but if I were a man like I am, I am
Nobody, and Hopeless." Indeed, I con-
sider myself fortunate if I escape being
branded as "sensational" in protesting
against the attempted foisting on our lan-
guage by the political leader-monger of the
scintillously new-fangled word "clôture." The
word is a French word, and it is not they
dissidain to borrow the word from the French.
Words; idle words. We have to thank
the Charity Organisation Society for the
invention of a brand new compound English
word. What do you say to a "non-provid-
entable-bodied case"? I read of such a
case in the report of the last meeting of
the beneficent institution in question. After
this, what becomes of the briar-wood-pipe-
smoking, bull-terrier-keeping, knifeboard-
omnibus-patronising, music-hall-ditty-hum-
ming, Clôture-restaurant young man; or the
Clôture-keeping-round-the-free-lunches,
Clôture-licking-chewing, Clôture-licking-
poker-playing, Clôture-law-abiding, scallawag-
hoodlum cuss"? The non-provident-
abled-bodied case is, I gather from the Charity
Organisation report, a labouring man able to
work, but who has got no work to do. He
has been neglected to become a Forester, or
to invest in Consols, or make deposits in the
Post-Office Savings Bank. Away with the
"non-provident-abled-bodied case" to the
workhouse! There let him crack stones and

A charming Christmas gift comes to me from Lelpsic, in the form of a handsomely bound little tome, being the two-thousand volume of the world-famed Tauchnitz Collection of British Authors. What a cheerful, kindly benediction English literature has been the Baron Bernard Christian von Tauchnitz. Since '41, I think, has the Tauchnitz series been in course of publication. "At that time there was no international copyright; but Herr Tauchnitz retained the sole right of reprinting the authors and pay them for permission to include their productions in his series." Nobly has the House of Tauchnitz abided by its upright resolve. Most of the people of the pen have been included in the series, and of the handsomest cheques, and my brethren and sisters will, perhaps, agree with me when I say that when, in the fullness of time, the Herr Baron is gathered to his fathers there can scarcely be a better epitaph for inscription on the tombstone (which, I am sure, will be altered) placed by Mr. Ruskin on the tomb of his father, who was a wine merchant. The Tauchnitz epitaph should read:—

The two-thousandth Tauchnitz is Professor Morley's "English Literature in the Reign of Victoria : with a Glance at the Past," but it is no less big than the copious collection of facsimiles of the autographs of British and American authors who have had dealings with the House of Tauchnitz. Here shall you mark the bold feminine "first" of the beautiful Countess of Blessington (1843), the Braddon (1866), the delicate Italian hand of "Edward Bulwer" (1843); "Edward Bulwer Lytton" (1844), and the slightly tremulous "Lytton" (1868). Miss Rhoda Broughton "looms large" under the date of 1881; "B. Disraeli" has a page devoted to her long-lived life in 1844, and is big and bold, but deviates from the horizontal line in 1881; Mrs. Frances Gaskell how seems to have been studying German calligraphy in 1872, so narrowly parallel are her up and down strokes; in 1806, Caroline Norton flourishes too much in 1871; Charles Reade in 1856 bears down upon you like some great Spanish galleon; and the first manual Katherine Saunders (1873) might be one of our signatures, so stereotyped is the handwriting.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, THURSDAY.
The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Hon. Victoria Baillie; and her Majesty walked with the Princess this morning. The Hon. Lady Biddulph had the honour of dining with the Queen yesterday.

The Prince of Wales had an exceedingly good day's shooting on the estate of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington at Bradgate, Leicestershire, on Thursday. The morning was rather foggy, and consequently it was after ten o'clock when his Royal Highness, Lord Stamford, and the party left the hall. The ground was covered with a carpet of snow. Hundreds of conveyances of all kinds lined the roads, and several thousand people, many of whom had walked many miles, watched the shooting with the keenest interest. On the route from Leicester to Bradgate was one of the most curious streams of conveyances, and at four o'clock the road was completely blocked between 5,000 and 10,000 people in the fields adjoining the wood where the Royal party were shooting. The fog then became rather dense, and the people, imagining that the sport had concluded, advanced cheering cheerfully. The pheasants, owing to the fog, refused to rise, and the cessation of firing led the people to suppose the sport was over, and in their loyal enthusiasm unwittingly prevented the Royal party shooting over the remaining part of the wood. His Royal Highness then left the wood and walked along the road towards the house, and the private grounds, the crowd cheering tremendously. At night there were brilliant illuminations in the park and grounds.

The German Ambassador returned to the German Embassy on Thursday from visiting Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kennard at Gaddington Park, near Ashford.

The Earl and Countess of Egmont have entertained during the last week, at Cowdray Park, Viscount and Viscountess Gormanston, Lord and Lady Romilly, Lady Frances Warburton, Lady Westbury and Hon. Miss Bethell, Hon. Mrs. George Brown, Sir Basil and Lady Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Percival, Mr. C. Egerton Legge, Mr. M. Longfield, and Mr. E. R. Turton.

Viscount and Viscountess Holmesdale's party at Riddlesworth Hall during the week includes Count and Countess Gleichen and Countess Feodore Gleichen, the Earl and Countess of St. Germans, the Earl and Countess of Romney, Captain and Lady Elinor Denison, Colonel Antrobus, Colonel Jervoise, and Major Ross, M.P.

The death is announced of the Dowager Lady Fairbairn, in her 91st year. Her ladyship was the widow of the great engineer, Sir William Fairbairn, Bart., LL.D., F.R.S., who died in 1874. In latter years she has resided with her son, the vicar of Waltham St. Laurence, Berks, and died at the vicarage on Wednesday last.

[illegible]

THE CHARGE AGAINST THE MARQUIS OF
HUNTLY.

At the Mansion House Justice-room on Thursday, before the Lord Mayor, Mr. Besley said that on Dec. 29 a gentleman on his behalf applied that a warrant might issue against the Marquis of Huntly for the enforcement of a process of the Court. His lordship thought it right further time should be given, and, accordingly, the application was adjourned for renewal that day. There was not the least desire on the part of Mr. Nicholson, the gentleman who had advanced the money (upwards of £2,400) to the noble marquis, to keep any of the facts from the Court, and if his lordship chose he would see him.

M. GAMBETTA.

[illegible]

CONGRESS OF FRENCH TEACHERS.

by unanimous agreement of the scientific literary section of the Société Nationale Française, at their sitting on Nov. 12 last, an association was constituted under the title, Société Nationale des Professeurs de Français en Angleterre. The short space of six months has been amply sufficient to make preparations for a congress in London, and to provide proof that the adherents of the new literary association are thoroughly in earnest, encouraged by the warm approval and ready support of their leading compatriots, more than a hundred teachers of the French language in English schools, and members of this society by meeting on Thursday 12th inst. at the Raynham Tavern, Chancery Lane, where they were received as guests by M. Henri Bue, French Master of the school, who, as one of the honorary secretaries, has taken a very active part in the preliminary arrangements. Briefly,

French language and literature, and,

tionally, to create among the native professors, engaged in England, means and opportunities of cultivating personal relations of amity, and of hoped-for mutual benefit. The societies are immediately contemplated to lead to the foundation of a retreat for blind or disabled teachers, pensions, and other means of aid, as need may.

We have already stated, the presidency has been accepted by M. Victor Hugo, and on Thursday's meeting, with M. Antonin Rocher at the chair, commenced with the reading of letters from allies and well-wishers of the movement, who have been unable to attend the opening. M. Victor Hugo, of course, had the honor to read the first, and in a vein of good that is likely to arise, from the recognition of a closer intimacy between the makers of languages dignified by Shakespeare and Moliere. Equally encouraging remarks came from M. Paul Bert, M. Challemeulle, M. Fenech, M. Guizot, M. Alexandre Dumas, M. Eugène Labiche, M. Naquet, M. Edmond About, M. Auguste Vacqueret, and M. Jean Macé. M. Roche then delivered his opening discourse. M. George Leleu, president of the Scientific and Literary Section of the French National Assembly, read a paper, and M. Roche, in prefacing them with some remarks of considerable interest, in the course of which he mentioned that only about one-third of teachers of French in England are natives of France; and that many English boys and girls, who are sent to France, are of English, Flemish, Dutch, and Scandinavian lineage, the accent thus acquired being invariable in after life. An address by M. Buisson, delegate from the Ministry of Public Instruction, came next, and shortly afterwards

THE EXTRAORDINARY CONFESSION.

W. F. Warrington, of Congleton, who died the farmer, Isaac Brooks, whose recent death-bed confession in connection with outrages alleged to have been inflicted on himself, by men now undergoing terms of penal servitude, has attracted so much public notice, that the following is a summary of the case, containing the following description of the deceased. After the first of mutilation, Dr. Warrington writes:— "he man soon recovered his usual state of health, which was not robust, owing to various diseases of the heart, since he had much trouble, and was very nervous, and was well known to me, of eccentric habits, and reserved. He was fond of music, and of reading, often studying an old-fashioned Encyclopaedia, and took a pride in long words. Since his death, I have observed, that his conduct and manner were, and was guided by them in some of his actions. He had rather pleasing manners for a man in his station of life, and was very deliberate in his conversation and in his habits and manners, in relation to his business, for he directed his own went to market, etc., made him a somewhat conspicuous character among the old-fashioned farmers and labourers in the lonely hill district in which he lived. He considered he wished to make himself useful, and he really was, and was not a parasite among them."

After the second inquiry, Dr. Warrington said: "As on my first visit, so again, I told before him his real condition, and the danger he was in living in such a solitary place, far from medical aid. He reluctantly consented to be taken to the Singleton Cottage Hospital, as his general condition, owing to the hemorrhage, was serious. I must observe that it was his particular desire that no one should know of this condition. He did not wish to be exposed to the world as having suffered from a mental disease. I visited him at the hospital, and he was glad to be revealed to the world; he would rather have kept it quiet. When it was known he thought he might as well speak the truth about it at last, and to the men were. But had not the

to be done so. He was sorry for the men; the negroes had been punished too heavily. If he had his life to go over again he would not have told them. He sent for me on Dec. 26, 1831, and was very anemic, with slight fever. The question of the liberation of the prisoners his friends he would not live many years. Early in the morning of Dec. 31, after much much disturbed mentally, he confessed to a farmer and Wesleyan local preacher, that the men and Cloves were innocent of the crime for which they were punished, and he wished them to be liberated. A few hours after this confession in presence of his friends and brothers, he was peacefully punished at, he died. To the hospital trustees, and to the police, he would never disclose the slightest information. He asked me whether he had any idea of the identity of the man who had attacked him. He was in the habit of denying, when asked, that any second injury had occurred to him. He had an illegitimate child in the arms of him, of which he was the father. The mother of this child was the daughter of a sister of the defendant in the Brooks trial. Cloves. Brooks was fondly attached to the child, but it was advanced at the trial that Brooks' relations with Cloves' mother were of a carnal nature. Brooks was carrying and the outrage on Brooks as a matter of revenge. The possibility of the injuries being self-inflicted has been made a strong point in the case, therefore I have been more particular in describing the man

Commenting on this case, the *Lancet* says : "We are indebted to Dr. Warrington, of Angleton, for the courtesy of a communication embodying a very interesting account of the operations of the case. The man, Brooks, whose confession has recently excited much attention. It seems from the surgical details of the case that the injury inflicted was of a very simple nature, and evinced by some person familiar with the operations of the case. At first Brooks declared that he could not recognise the man who, as he alleged, committed the assault in December, 1879. His identifying the prisoners was an afterthought. Later on he said that he thought that he should have kept the matter quiet, but that a police bothered him so much. The most remarkable feature, however, in the case is the fact that in Feb., 1881, the man pronounced to have had another attack made upon him, of precisely the same nature. On this occasion the injury inflicted was, as far as could be gathered by the surgeon who was called in to see him (Dr. Warrington), very similar to that sustained previously. This time the man stated that he had attacked the man in mind of any one reading Dr. Warrington's statement that the case was throughout one self-mutilation from insanity. The only explanation of this is that when the case was reported to the Home Secretary, the man informed and the unjustly convicted men regenerated. Looked at from the medical standpoint, the case was certainly never clearly established. As Dr. Warrington points out, 'no question' was raised as to the defence, 'as to the man's habits !' These were in themselves suggestive, Brooks being 'of eccentric habits, close, and reserved.' Altogether, the story would seem to have been a concoction of the most extraordinary kind, and this may be taken as a typical and striking example of a class of cases which must always be liable to misconception, to the lasting discredit of justice, so long as the medical profession is not the sole value standard to which to appeal in matters of doubt."

TWO MISSING BALIFFS.
A Dublin correspondent wrote on Thursday night—(The fate of Lord Ardilaun's baliff and his nephew, which has been a matter of doubt for a week, was this morning reported to have been cleared up by the discovery of their bodies chained together in Lough Mask.) In this report, however, proves to be without foundation; but their continued absence added to a strong belief that they have been murdered. On the morning of the 22 January, Joseph Huddy, who had been for twenty years baliff on the property of Lord Ardilaun, near Cong, County Mayo, and also deputy Sessions judge and clerk for the district, left Cong on a car belonging to Mr. John Clarke, of that place, for the purpose of serving ejectment processes on some of Lord Ardilaun's tenants in the Clonbur and Annamora district, in which Lord Mountnorris was assassinated. He was accompanied by his nephew, quite a lad. On reaching the village of Cloughpatrick, the baliff and his nephew got off the car and went into a bye path for the purpose of taking service of the processes. He discovered the bodies of the two baliffs lying on the ground around three or four hundred yards away. After waiting for some hours the driver became alarmed at the continued absence of the two persons, and he therefore drove into Clonbur and informed the police. The baliff and his nephew had met with foul play. The baliff was at once set out to look for them. A man named Kerrigan, whose house is adjacent to Lough Mask, was arrested next morning on suspicion, the belief being entertained that he had murdered the baliffs. His body was found by their bodies flung into the lake. Kerrigan's house a bag belonging to Huddy, and in which he carried the legal documents, was found. On an examination of the house the police found traces of blood on the walls, and also a pair of silver-handled Mr. Connehy, resident magistrate, and assisted by Inspector Owens at once organised a search for the bodies of the men. On Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday police continued their labours in the neighbourhood, but without success, and a party of the police were specially detailed to search the district. The people in the district are mostly an Irish-speaking population, and they did not at all seem disposed to give any information. On Saturday Mr. Smyth obtained the services of a Mr. Connehy, of the Ashford House, Cong, but no clue of the whereabouts of the missing men could be obtained. It then became the general impression that the bodies were conveyed to the lake, and that the lake is of large extent, and very dangerous. The police on Monday the Constabulary were enabled to drag it, on account of the previous rough weather. Three boats, each supplied with grappling implements, have since been sent out for a morning search. Sub-Inspectors Smyth and McDonnell have been employed in dragging, and also the searches at the various islands. No trace of the missing men, however, has yet been found. There can be no doubt that the baliffs have been murdered. The two have elapsed some time set out on their journey, and the tides have been gleamed of them since.

DISTRESS AMONG THE CLERGY.—A meeting of the clergy was held at Worcester on Thursday to consider measures for relieving the exceptional distress among the clergy in many parts of the diocese owing to the falling of incomes derived from glebe land brought out by agricultural depression. The Bishop of Worcester, who presided, the Dean (Lord Wynne Compton), and other speakers affirmed that there were many cases of urgent distress where the income of clergymen depended upon profit from the glebe. A discussion it was resolved to raise a fund for the relief of clergymen suffering through agricultural depression, to be distributed by the Diocesan Clergymen's Widows' and

advertently gave a patient a bottleful of can-

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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 17-18, 1882.

THE COMING SESSION.

The Prime Minister is to return to town on the 24th inst., and the Cabinet will meet on the following day, which will leave nearly a fortnight available for the discussion of forthcoming measures before the opening of Parliament on the 7th of February. Mr. Gladstone, it is well known, is as eager for the fray, as fresh and vigorous, as abounding in spirit and confidence as he was a score of years younger. Yet the coming session will witness the completion by him of half a century's Parliamentary service. If he ever entertained the thought of retiring from public life, or even of lightening his labours by removing to the Upper House, a statesman of his peculiar temperament would discover sufficient reasons for changing his mind in the difficulties now confronting his Administration. The state of Ireland is still disquieting, and the influence of Irish politics on the conduct of Parliamentary business is full of grave cause for apprehension. It is true that if the Irish party carry into effect their menace of obstruction during the debate on the Address, there will be some compensation, from a Ministerial point of view, for the inevitable embarrassment and scandal. A renewal of obstructive tactics would furnish the Government with a cogent practical argument for amending the procedure of the House of Commons. No such incidental advantage—for either party, or for the country—can be extracted from the revival of the weary and painful controversy over Mr. Bradlaugh's claim to be admitted to take the oath as member for Northampton. If the Opposition are wise, they will not waste their powers and damage their credit by prolonging their resistance, which, should party passions be lashed into excitement, may be overcome by the united vote of the Liberal majority. The previous question "may be used to defeat Sir Stafford Northcote's proposal to exclude Mr. Bradlaugh, but many members on both sides have begun to see that it would be the more orderly and decent course to settle the matter by passing a short bill substituting, in the classes of cases to be considered, an affirmation for an oath. The Conservatives, in waiving their right to oppose such a measure, would show, in our opinion, both practical judgment and public spirit, though they may not easily induce their younger and more fiery combatants to retreat. A far more momentous issue will be raised by the introduction of the Ministerial scheme for the reform of the rules of the House of Commons. It is above all things to be desired that neither party may approach this question in a heated and exasperated temper. The Ministry are bound to give, and no doubt, will give to the subject in all its bearings the fullest and the calmest consideration. It must not be supposed that they have resolved to stake every vote of the House on the adoption, absolutely and instantly, of certain unalterable proposals. The Irish Land Bill, as we know, went through more than twenty revisions during its discussion in the Cabinet, and probably some of its clauses were amended at the very last moment. The procedure of Parliament is a subject on which the Government of the day must consult with, and, to a large extent, must defer to, public opinion, and especially to that of the House of Commons. The embarrassments with which the Ministry have to deal are frankly recognized by the country, and the arguments in favour of changes, which will not only put down deliberate obstruction, but will expedite the transaction of ordinary business, are generally admitted to be strong. But there is a disinclination, not confined to one party alone, to surrender the securities for free debate without considering whether the change may lead. Some politicians talk glibly of the necessity for "drastic measures," and the closure by a bare majority has been assumed, without sufficient grounds, to be the instrument of the Government to call upon the House of Commons to instruct them with. Many other amendments in the existing procedure of the House have been suggested and some will be certainly proposed. It is likely that with regard to these an agreement may easily be reached, after an interchange of ideas, by the majority of reasonable men on both sides. But with respect to the closure by a bare majority the case is altogether different. The whole mass of the Opposition will not even consent to look at it as an open question. No reasoning will induce them to concede a remedy which, as they assert, is worse than the disease. Moreover, they will not be without supporters, or, at any rate, sympathisers, on the Liberal benches. Some Radical politicians are known to be as reluctant as the Conservatives themselves to give up to the Government of the day the power of peremptorily putting an end to debate on any subject whatever. Many other Liberals who see in "government by discussion" the best safeguard of freedom are equally hostile to an innovation which would alter most seriously the character of Parliament and the course of English legislation. We are unable to perceive that the proposed introduction of the closure is a simple and

been received with pleasure by the country, and when it is considered on its merits, we are inclined, after giving full due to the arguments urged in its favour, to come to the conclusion that the reasons on the other side turn the scale. The finality of legislative reforms in England, which depends upon the acquiescence of defeated minorities in what has been accomplished, would be destroyed if it could be alleged that discussion had been stifled by the votes of impatient majorities. The discontent of the Opposition might be suppressed on great occasions, but it would find opportunities of asserting and avenging itself which would not conduce to the rapid despatch of business. It is obvious that few of the objections to closure by a bare majority apply to a measure by which the assent of the main body of both parties would be required for the compulsory closing of debate. A majority of two-thirds or three-fourths might be relied upon to put an end to idle and wasteful talk, while it would prevent any allegation that fair discussion had been brought in the interest of a Ministry. The Prime Minister is not likely to ignore the effect of any changes proposed upon the character of the House of Commons. But there are reasons also of practical expediency which, from a party point of view, recommend caution in putting forward projects unfamiliar to the English people. There is no proof that the nation has withdrawn its confidence from Mr. Gladstone in spite of defeats at by-elections and municipal gains for Conservatism. There are, however, signs of uneasiness in the political world, which may foreshadow the removal of old party landmarks. There are clouds, too, upon the horizon of foreign affairs. The situation in Egypt is an anxious one. The protracted agony in Ireland and the difficulties in the administration of the Land Act afford matter for scornful and satirical criticism. It would be unwise to add to all these dangers the bitterness that has engendered among Liberals as well as Conservatives if the Ministerial majority, morally weakened by significant defections, were to impose the closure in its crudest form upon the House of Commons.—Times.

THE COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

The Paris correspondent of the Times wrote on Tuesday:—
The Cabinet discussed to-day at great length the Anglo-French Treaty of Commerce. The negotiations, as is known, are being carried on just now at Paris alone, between Lord Lyons, M. Gambetta, and the Minister of Commerce. It was thought the matter could be expedited by avoiding the delays necessarily resulting from carrying on the negotiations from both sides. Lord Lyons, in fact, what are the extreme concessions he can agree to, and on their side the members of the French Cabinet conducting the negotiations know that the British Ambassador, coupled with a desire to bring to a speedy conclusion the negotiations, possesses all the necessary elements for doing so, down to the signing of the Treaty. As to the latter point, I think it may now safely be said that a treaty will be signed. The ill-considered prophetic utterances of the last night, notwithstanding your repeated assertions, have represented the hopes of concluding a treaty as chimerical, fortunately thus fall to the ground. I say again, what you have said before—viz., that as soon as an agreement is reached between the two countries that the signing of a treaty was for both nations a paramount political necessity, before which considerations of an inferior order ought to be set aside, and the treaty concluded, regardless of the details of its provisions, as certain of being concluded after a more or less prolonged interval, but an interval which could not be prolonged for ever. This is not the place to discuss which country the conclusion of a treaty most benefits, but the fact is certain that, despite all pretences, the treaty is essential to both nations, because the two nations are essential to each other, and because there is an enormous difference between the relations of two nations making an amiable exchange of their products and the relations of two nations combating each other on the field of industry by every means at their disposal and seeking rather to injure each other than to benefit themselves. Governments must place themselves above party passions when international relations are in question. It is, therefore, to be supposed that the members of the two Governments have obeyed this duty; that they have put aside the selfish considerations of their party and that in the diplomatic negotiations relative to the treaty they are looking only to the absolute necessity of the good and cordial relations which may be established between the two nations, economic conflicts being avoided.

Both sides seem just now disposed to make concessions. The difficulties of details still existing in the question of cottons, woollens, and leather are every day diminishing through compromises and the adoption of new categories; and it is hoped, as I said on Saturday, that it will not be necessary to have recourse to a fresh promulgation, however short, of the present Treaty. All that is possible will certainly be done to avoid it, for in the advanced state of the negotiations the demand for a fresh prolongation would necessitate either delicate explanations or uneasiness as to the final result from a refusal of explanations. As, however, the desire to arrive at a settlement, but as, despite the utmost goodwill on both sides, all the details might not be adjusted, an application for a prolongation not going beyond the 15th of March at farthest would in that case be submitted as a settlement, but as, despite the utmost goodwill on both sides, all the details might not be adjusted, an application for a prolongation not going beyond the 15th of March at farthest would in that case be submitted as a settlement, but as, despite the utmost goodwill on both sides, all the details might not be adjusted, an application for a prolongation not going beyond the 15th of March at farthest would in that case be submitted as a settlement.

ARREST OF THE BEY'S BROTHER.

Telegraphing on Tuesday night, the Standard correspondent at Tunis says:—
Last night the Tunisian Minister of War, with two hundred native Cavalry, proceeded to the Palace of Sidi Taieb, the younger brother of the reigning Bey. This morning he was made prisoner, and his now being conveyed to the fortress of Sidi Bou-Said, which was made to this arrest are curious enough. When the French soldiers were engaged with the Kroumirs in April, M. Roustan was making all the necessary arrangements to accompany the expedition. He was, in fact, at the last moment, the reigning Bey would take refuge on board some foreign warship, and thus frustrate the pre-arranged plan. M. Roustan made overtures to Taieb Bey, giving him to understand that he would place him on the throne, provided he would sign the Protectorate Treaty. As in the end the reigning Bey signed the Treaty, and Taieb's services were no longer required, M. Roustan abandoned him, and a good deal of ill-feeling has since existed between him and his brother and himself. He in vain appealed to M. Roustan for protection against his own family. Taieb Bey then openly declared that a well-known lady who has played an important part in the Tunisian question, offered to secure the throne to him if he (Taieb Bey) would pay her one and a half millions of francs. M. Roustan never forgave this, and it is well known that the arrest has been effected at his instigation. He placed him in the hands of the French troops, and he told me that he had frequently offered to the French Government to explain what had taken place between himself and M. Roustan, but without any result, and he complained that, after having made a tool of him, the French Government had now turned to bring about the signature of the Treaty, he has since been completely abandoned and treated as an intriguer.

It has transpired that M. Roustan lately pressed the Bey on several occasions to arrest his brother Sidi Taieb, but the Bey declined to assume the responsibility. Yesterday M. Roustan informed the Bey that the French Government authorized him to take such a step. Accordingly Taieb Bey has been arrested for intriguing against his brother, but the real cause is now of public notoriety. Taieb Bey, who has a French passport, has caused a telegram to be sent to Paris, praying the French Government to allow him to proceed to France and there give any explanations that may be required. The affair is causing much excitement here.

THE REVOLT IN HERZEGOVINA.

The Vienna correspondent of the Standard telegraphed on Tuesday night:—
The first report which have arrived from the scene of the insurrection consist principally of accounts of small skirmishes and attacks on gendarmes, on the post and on block houses. Cattle robbing has commenced in earnest, and the rebels have made several night attacks on the towns of Metkovich and Makarska. The reports from the disturbed districts may be expected to be of a similar character. In this guerrilla warfare, as in 1876, bands of insurgents suddenly appear at some unexpected spot, and are suddenly disappeared. One knows what to expect, but the latest news there are signs of insurrection only in South-Western Herzegovina. The territory affected extends from Trebinje to Nevesini to Fotcha, on the Drina River. The district round the city of Metkovich, however, is still in the hands of the Austrians. The Austrian authorities there, however, still remain undisturbed, none of the telegraphs or other communications being interrupted, showing that the insurrection is not yet strong enough to threaten the life of the day.

The fear that the revolt will soon assume dangerous proportions would be much diminished if it were possible to guard the Montenegrin frontier, and if there were no signs of a fresh outbreak in the district of the Drina. The reports from the latest news there are signs of insurrection only in South-Western Herzegovina. The territory affected extends from Trebinje to Nevesini to Fotcha, on the Drina River. The district round the city of Metkovich, however, is still in the hands of the Austrians. The Austrian authorities there, however, still remain undisturbed, none of the telegraphs or other communications being interrupted, showing that the insurrection is not yet strong enough to threaten the life of the day.

Governor Jovanovic's plan in dealing with the insurrection is to surround the disturbed districts by encircling his troops from Antich and six of Chassours, besides twenty-four guns, have been ordered thither, and have either already arrived, or are at this moment en route. Of these reinforcements seven battalions are for Bosnia, the remainder, numbering ten battalions, are to be sent to Bilak, Gasko, and Fotcha. It is considered that, in order effectively to surround the disturbed districts, at least twenty thousand more troops must be sent to Bosnia and Herzegovina to fifty thousand men.

THE PERSECUTION OF JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The Odessa correspondent of the Times writes:—
I am enabled to send you a word or two of explanation with respect to the Warsaw anti-Jewish riots on Christmas Day from a non-Russian official source. A great deal of time has been cast upon the Warsaw authorities, having put an end to it, and at once, as they could have easily done, which last three days. Notwithstanding that the riotous and districts some 60,000 troops were stationed, the rioters were allowed to carry on their murderous and devastating work almost unmolested, owing to the feeble attempts of the police. The fact is that Major-General Boutterlin, the Chief of Police at Warsaw, who has supreme control over the peace of the town, was at that moment in St. Petersburg, and his assistant, Colonel Polinoff, who he had left in charge, was so upset and undecided that he did nothing but wait for General Boutterlin's return. General Boutterlin, on his return, immediately put a stop to the disorders. At the time of the recent anti-Semitic riots at Kieff a corresponding anti-Semitic effervescence was observable among the population of Warsaw, but General Boutterlin at once posted patrols all over the town, and thus effectually nipped the affair in the bud. The anti-Semites seem to have been watching their opportunity, and to have taken good advantage of General Boutterlin's absence from the city. While his assistant appears to have been afraid to take any extreme measures on his own responsibility to put down the outbreak.

THE NEW PARLIAMENTARY RULES.

We (Standard) believe that the following are the principal changes in the Rules of the House of Commons which have been under the consideration of the Cabinet. The proposals have not yet been finally settled, and probably some modifications may be made before Parliament meets.

It is proposed to limit the number of occasions on which the principle of a Bill may be raised, and to restrict the debate on the question of the Bill to one day, on Thursday, for a second and first reading—usually, but not necessarily, taken together—the second reading, the motion to go into Committee, the report, and third reading, and on the question of the Bill to pass. In future the discussion of the principle of a Bill will be confined to the introduction (when, if leave be given, the Bill is to be read a first time, as a matter of course), to the second reading and to the third reading.

With regard to the power of closing debate, it is proposed that the Speaker (or in Committee of the whole House, the Chairman) may, on his own motion or on the demand of a certain number of members, put the question that the question then before the House "be now put." On this question no debate is to be allowed, and is at once to be decided by a division. A simple majority, except in certain cases, will be the sufficient to carry the motion that the question be now put. The proposed changes will probably include the second reading of a Bill, and Votes of Supply of an unusual character, such as Votes of Credit or Votes of Extraordinary Naval and Military Expenditure, and in these cases a majority of two to one will be required for closing a debate.

Certain classes of bills are to be referred to large select committees, partly nominated by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection; and with regard to these bills the stage of committee in the whole House will be dispensed with. The bills to which this rule will apply will be mainly bills on the principle of which the greatest difference of opinion exists, or which involve questions of administration rather than policy. The House itself will have the opportunity of discussing the details of such bills, and of making amendments on the Report.

It is proposed to facilitate proceedings in committee by providing that in committees of the whole House no member shall have power to move more than once, during the debate on the same question, either that the Chairman do report progress, or that the Chairman do leave the Chair, nor to speak more than once to each separate motion; and that no member who has made one of these motions have power to make another on the same question. A resolution to this effect was passed on the paper by Sir St. Johnstone in 1879, and the Conservative leaders are, therefore, committed to this proposal.

No member is to have the power of moving the adjournment of the House before the end of the day or the motion on the paper, as the case may be, have been reached, but a provision will be made for enabling matters of extreme urgency to be brought before the House without notice and without delay.

It will be proposed that when Supply is put down as the first Order of the Day for Monday, the House shall forthwith resolve itself into Committee, without allowing debate or amendment on the question that the Speaker leave the Chair. It will also be provided that after a certain date (probably the 1st of July), when Supply is put down on any day (except Friday), the same rule shall apply.

Provision will be made for giving the Government more complete control of the business on Government nights. At present Orders of the Day must be put first; and if the Government desire to bring on a motion for leave to bring in a bill, or any other motion, they must wait until the postponement of the Orders of the Day. This often leads to discussion and waste of time. In future the Government will have absolute power of arranging the business on their own days.

The changes will also be proposed with regard to private Members' bills. Under the present system, immediately after the opening of the session, every Wednesday up to the end of July is practically appropriated to the second reading of a bill for any day a month beyond its introduction; and probably, after a certain period of the session, committees on bills which have been read a second time by a certain proportionate number of votes will obtain precedence over second readings.

A proposal will be made for the modification of the half-past twelve rule—the rule which prevents official business being taken on after half-past twelve. It is proposed to be applied to the introduction of bills, or to the appointment and nomination of select committees. In future, a notice of opposition, to be effective as a block, will require to be given by a certain number of members, and the rule also will be made inapplicable to the report and third reading of bills.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM THE "WORLD.")
It was the Queen's desire that Prince Albert's commissions should be printed in manuscript, and not circulated. But the Prince was so very popular that everything coming from him commands public sympathy. So, in consequence of frequent demands, the Queen consented to permit the printing of all the orders, medals, and mementoes of a gifted organization, combined with a degree of learning rarely rare in an amateur, would render the book valuable even if it was not the work of a Royal Majesty. With his well-known love for the arts, and his desire to make all the songs comfortably easy and not trying as to compass, whereas in the *Invezione all' Armonia* he showed himself rather clever in four-part writing.

The late Earl of Bessborough's charming country house at Bessborough, which is now in the hands of his present tenant, Sir Samuel Wilson has brought home from Australia, besides a large fortune, a great admiration for what is historic and venerable in his native land. The house, gardens, and grounds have been kept up with jealous care, and with no stint as to cost. "I feel sure," said Sir Samuel, "over the wine and walnuts one day last week," that I could not have come to any part of England where the country is more beautiful, the surroundings are so pleasant. The first time I saw this district was at the end of summer, when everything was looking its best; and I was so delighted with the drive from Maidenhead to Wycombe, that I felt I had never met, in any part of the world, so scenery more beautiful.

Mr. Austin Mackenzie's spirited undertaking to hunt the South Bucks country with half of the sometimes famous O.B.H. pack is yielding abundant satisfaction to sportsmen throughout the district. The house, gardens, and grounds have been kept up with jealous care, and with no stint as to cost. "I feel sure," said Sir Samuel, "over the wine and walnuts one day last week," that I could not have come to any part of England where the country is more beautiful, the surroundings are so pleasant. The first time I saw this district was at the end of summer, when everything was looking its best; and I was so delighted with the drive from Maidenhead to Wycombe, that I felt I had never met, in any part of the world, so scenery more beautiful.

on their audience's purses and sympathies, has led to rivalry and imitation; and I hear Johnstone-Kennedy, Sir J. Kennedy's park at Maidenhead, will be the next week with amateur actors and actresses.

But generally festivities in Ireland are of a lugubrious kind this winter, and very far from being so cheerful as they were last year. The county of Wickford on Thursday, for a concert the day before that chosen for national grief. But this also was somewhat of a novel nature: the guests, amounting to nearly seventy, arrived at half-past one; music began at once; during an interval, lunch was served; and then the musicians hurried back to their instruments to get through the programme before dusk, the object being to disperse before midnight, for fear of lurking assassins and stray shots. Night, however, came on apace, and as all the guests joined heartily in "God save the Queen," in the hall, with the windows unclosed, before starting, it was well no Captain Moonlight was lurking outside to scatter a few shots amongst them as he did at the marriage festivities near Cork.

The Royal Irish are having a bad time of it among the daughters of Erin just now. They are compelled to attend the Ladies' Land meetings Sunday after Sunday, and ask the lively young persons who attend them for their names. The mischievous maidens, most of whom have been educated at convent schools, have now taken to answer the Constabulary queries in Norman French, and the policeman's lot is not a happy one, for the polyglot dictionaries are not included in his "kit."

The Badminton Club will enter shortly into a new stage of existence. The premises will become the property of the Badminton Club and Residential Chambers Company; and the extensive additions and alterations will be commenced forthwith. At a general meeting held last Thursday, and over which the Duke of Beaufort, but for an attack of gout that kept him in Gloucestershire, would have presided, the sums already subscribed were found quite large enough to warrant the new company in beginning operations. The Badminton Club, in such situation, are bound to be a great success. There was a very pleasant house-dinner on Thursday evening after the meeting (the Badminton is rather famous for these gatherings), and, under the influence of good-fellowship, a little Gier and Ayala, "the night" was filled with music.

The destructive explosion on board H.M.S. *Triumph* raises two important questions: first, how did the explosion occur, and secondly, why was it kept in the paint-stores of the ship in direct contravention of an order that all inflammable articles are to be placed in the spirit-room? At the official inquiry which the Admiralty will hold to make into the fatality, prominence must be given to these two points; and upon them may hang a tale. Xerotine sicative has no anti-corrosive properties, is distinct from "patent driers," and is merely used with paint to make the paint dry rapidly. It is not, however, a preservative of Admiralty articles, it will be no excuse to plead that, upon its explosive qualities being discovered, its employment in the navy was discontinued, and the return into store of unused quantities ordered.

Professor W. B. Richmond is at Hawarden this week painting a portrait of Mr. Gladstone for Christ Church, Oxford. Besides several fine portraits, a large picture has just been completed by the same artist for the exhibition; it represents Prometheus loosed from his fetters by Hercules, while the latter shoots with an arrow the eagle that has been preying upon Prometheus.

Fashion in deformity is a subject so trifling, that it has almost ceased to be in any degree a national, and awakes but a languid interest in the female mind, or in what they are sometimes pleased to call their minds. I hear, however, that Mr. Treves, of the London Hospital, is preparing a series of lectures, and it was issued without the approval of Admiralty articles, it will be no excuse to plead that, upon its explosive qualities being discovered, its employment in the navy was discontinued, and the return into store of unused quantities ordered.

The recent death of Mr. James Wylie, the tenant of the farm of Mossiel, near Mauchline, Ayrshire, is noticeable from the fact that he occupied for forty years the land which Burns poetized, being the second tenant after the poet and his brother Gilbert. It was James Wylie, the tenant of the farm, who wrote some of the "light-lacing," high heels, face-powders, dyes, and pigments, all taken from the life, for the lecture which he is to deliver for the National Health Society on this subject at the Kensington Vestry Hall on February 2nd, at three o'clock. Every lady who attends will have a *prima facie* right to be set down as more or less in the fashion, a large attendance may be expected.

HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT.

An inquest, held on the body of the poor woman who was poisoned a few days ago by a mistake in Guy's Hospital, reminds us that hospital management in London is being tardily reformed by means of manslaughter. The coroner and his jury are doing for these institutions the work which Howard, the great reformer of the last century, did for the face of bitter obloquy, endeavoured to improve the nursing arrangements at Guy's Hospital failed to convince people that it was, as regards these, in a state of sheer lawlessness. Scarcely a day goes by in which a patient who has been taken into the hospital, and who would profect what reasoning, plaint, and pleading failed to accomplish. A new system of nursing was set on foot, and a hospital that had been for years a den of vice and debauchery was partially purified. Nurses were no longer allowed to have their "followers" coming about the place whenever it pleased them to enjoy their society. The patients were not permitted to drive with each other a roaring trade in the stimulants that were lavishly supplied to them, and regularly led with their reach. Even among the Ward Sisters, "flirtation" (the name of hospital administration—with the young men on duty was suddenly reduced to a minimum. And yet, vast as is the improvement that has been effected at Guy's by simply introducing a few rudimentary ideas of law, order, and discipline into the nursing organisation, much still remains to be done before the patients can get fairly decent. There are, as shown by the evidence laid before the coroner who held the inquest on the body of the woman Bartlett, apparently no fixed rules in the hospital as to matters which do not come within the control of the nursing department, and it is clear that for want of them people are every now and then running the risk of being killed in a place to which they have gone to be cured. Many illustrations of the mischief caused by this defect might be given. The other day in Guy's, a lady pupil in the daughter, it may be remarked, of one of the most eminent, not to say fashionable, of living physicians—unadvisedly gave a patient a bottleful of carbolie acid. But for her good luck the result would have been fatal and she would probably have had to stand a criminal trial. Why, we may well ask, did this occur? Simply because "the management" at Guy's could not be induced to have poison-bottles

so coloured and fluted that it would be impossible to mistake them for bottles containing innocuous drugs. They have been brought to see the desirability of having the one now, and within the present month poisons in solution are ordered in Guy's Hospital to be put into special phials. But, ere this simple plan could be adopted, it was necessary for a nurse of high family connections to bring an unlucky patient under her care to the very verge of death, and herself almost to the very doors of the Old Bailey. The partisans of the old order, however, were able to comfort themselves with the reflection that there were still valuable inmate chances of killing people by "misadventure," for the poisons in the form of powders were not affected by this change; they were, as formerly, to be made up as that it was quite easy to give one of them to a sick person instead of the curative drug ordered for him or her. Now these worshippers of a swiftly-vanishing Past are to be driven from another stronghold. A nurse has killed a woman by giving her a morphia for a quiet powder, and henceforth we are assured that poisonous and non-poisonous powders will in Guy's Hospital be no longer packed so that they cannot be readily distinguished by the eye. In dealing with this case it is odd to notice how the two people who are censured by the coroner's jury are the only two who foresaw the danger, and made the least effort to ward it off. The Sister, knowing that the custom of keeping all medicines, and first of them all, in the same bracket, above the patient's bed, was a perilous one, removed the morphia powders, in this instance, for greater safety to a basket on the table, from which the nurse who took them had no business to take them. The mistake of the Ward Sister, therefore, in not locking the powders up in her own room, which, though a violation of the prevailing usage, would at any rate have made an accident impossible.

The dispenser, again, alarmed at the monstrous strength of the morphia powder, as they were in ten-grain doses—made inquiry if they were really to be prepared to carry out his orders. He was, however, censured because he did not make them up in specially coloured packets; the fact being that he had no such packets supplied to him; and that if he had put them into such a packet it would have made no difference, as there existed no rule indicating that powders in coloured packets were to be given to patients. It is, in fact, no good trying to attach blame to any individual in a matter like this, when we find that the more we endeavour to fix the real responsibility for these mishaps, the more forcibly are we driven to the conclusion that the phrase, "no rule, no law, no order," may be sometimes a rule; but in that case it is found to be a dead letter, or to be replaced by a slatternly "custom," or a stupid tradition. We do not suppose, for example, there is in Guy's, a rule which directly authorises a boy-student to prescribe five grains of opium to a patient on his own responsibility; or to order copious libations of beer to drunkards who are admitted to the accident ward; or to give a great number of patients upon a diet that is not only unnecessary and ridiculously expensive, but hardly procurable, even by the most luxurious sybarites. Yet these things can be done, and have actually been done, in Guy's Hospital; and they will be done again, unless something like law and discipline are enforced among the subordinates of the medical officers, as they have been recently enforced, to some extent, among the nurses.—World.

A DAY'S COURSING.

Spring is everywhere, save in the calendar. Already the coursing season, the six months beginning with September, is more than half way through; already the hares seem to run sluggishly over the heavy ground. They are as though enervated by the preternatural warmth of the day, and the first of them fall easy victims to the favourite's jaws. The judge in scarlet waves a white handkerchief, the shouting of the betting-ring is stilled, and, no doubt in accordance with the old instructions, "he that comes in first takes a shilling," he comes in first, and the hares are washed in butter and beer. Nowadays, it must be remembered, the distinctive trait of coursing, or at any rate of public coursing, is the trial between two dogs and not the capture of the hare. Speed and endurance are the only points to which the modern breeders pay attention, and the greyhound at present in use would be more likely to be carried away by the deer than have any chance of bringing it down. The shouting of the ring recalls the old "historical reflections." "Even money Middleton" and "the odds I'll take" are infallible reminders of the innocent and friendly character of the sport is fled, the squire and his gallanting neighbours are in the scientific place there is the scientific trainer and his backers, and all the well-known irresponsible crowd who make a profession of hunting after "that ferocious beast, the crown-piece." The crowd here is composed of the most familiar to those who have ever attended a suburban race meeting. Chief of all the betting men, bawling, blustering, and bullying. The ground is so damp and muddy that the majority have provided themselves with boxes, whence they peer at the hares with an elevated air, which it would be well if their moral character possessed. They stand on their boxes with a humble assistant by their side, whom they have in most cases considerably provided with legging, as some protection against the mud, and there they busily take the shillings and half-crowns, occasionally pausing to exclaim admiration at ostentatiously paying a confederate ten or twenty pounds in flash notes. It gives a bystander an immense idea of their integrity thus to view them part with their money without a sign of agitation or distress; it so inspires a young man with a young beard that he hopefully deposits thirty shillings, which he incontinently loses. The hares are sent to empty wine cases provided from the refreshment tent; one, however, knowing the ground, has taken the precaution to bring his own grand stand with him, and I overheard a neighbour waging as to whether it is or is not a child's coffin. The hares are sent to empty wine cases provided from the refreshment tent; one, however, knowing the ground, has taken the precaution to bring his own grand stand with him, and I overheard a neighbour waging as to whether it is or is not a child's coffin. The hares are sent to empty wine cases provided from the refreshment tent; one, however, knowing the ground, has taken the precaution to bring his own grand stand with him, and I overheard a neighbour waging as to whether it is or is not a child's coffin.

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Great Britain

LONDON, JANUARY 22—23, 1882.

THE "QUARTERLY REVIEW" ON THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT.

The political article in the new number of the *Quarterly Review* is, as its title imports, a vigorous and searching review of the proceedings of the Government during the two years of office. It is unnecessary to say that it is written with clearness and ability. From one point of view it is, of course, a prolonged invective against the policy of the Government at home and abroad; but for every accusation, whether explicitly or implicitly made, it furnishes the specific testimony of facts. Ministers are themselves put into the witness box. They are judged, not by the words of their opponents, or even of their own irresponsible supporters, but out of their own lips. The Reviewer endeavours to ascertain the principle, or the want of principle, by which their action is regulated, from the statements which they themselves have placed publicly on record. It is true that the article is critical only. It does not come within its writer's province to formulate an alternative policy, and, indeed, in the course of the first few pages he declares, with marked significance, that before the Conservatives can be fairly expected to take office Ministers must have done the consequences of the actions for which they are responsible. The chief value of the article, therefore, lies in the fact that it is an honest and capable attempt to mature the political opinion of the country, and to supply it in a compendious shape with the data on which it should be based. The writer naturally devotes the greater part of his observations to the burning question of Ireland; starting from the time when, just before according to office, Mr. Gladstone—in opposition to Lord Beaconsfield's warning that a danger scarcely less disastrous than pestilence or famine was impending—boldly declared that there was a feeling of comfort and satisfaction in that country unknown in its previous history down to the present hour when, as the Reviewer sardonically puts it, Ireland is governed by the most severe Coercion Act of this generation, and Irish patriots are lodged in British Bastilles. Who is it that has caused this startling change? Mercilessly analysing the course of events, the Reviewer traces the responsibility to the doors of Downing-street, and fastens upon the Prime Minister the charge of having wantonly evoked the demons he now finds himself powerless to lay. The "infinitely disgraceful admission" that the Land League was dissolved at an earlier period than the tenants of Ireland would have no organisation to fall back upon, and the Government no excuse for introducing their Land Bill, is condemned with unsparring severity; and the appeal of the Prime Minister to "Divine light and justice" is answered with an outburst of moral scorn which is perhaps the best, and is certainly the most natural, response to such a misapplication of sacred sanctions. A contrast of telling significance is drawn between the attitude of Mr. Gladstone when he clamoured for a meeting of the Cabinet on the news of outrages in Bulgaria, and the happy-go-lucky frame of mind with which the Premier and his colleagues dispersed to their homes, "leaving behind them women and children to the tender mercies of Captain Moonlight and Rory of the Hills." The article will no doubt be denounced as a Party attack. The question, however, is, Are the statements contained in it just? That the writer has done his utmost to damage the reputation of the Ministry, and to discredit the pretensions of the Liberal Party, is certain. Has he succeeded? Are his facts correct? Is it true, as he says, that if fewer landlords are now shot in Ireland, it is only because fewer landlords resist? It is true that every form of intimidation and lawlessness was in operation for months before the Government attempted seriously to grapple with them? Is it true that the Prime Minister publicly declared that Mr. Dillon was "a man of a perfect, unflinching integrity, an opponent I am glad to honour," that Mr. Dillon threw back the compliment with scorn, affirming that Mr. Gladstone's success in life was due to "a singular gift" of skilful misrepresentation, and that the reason Mr. Dillon was then clapped into prison? Is it true that the Prime Minister apparently "makes words mean one thing one day, and a totally different thing, or nothing whatever, the next"? Is it the fact, or an exaggeration, that "thousands of estimable persons reposed unlimited confidence in his promises about Ireland, just as they would believe him to-morrow if he assured them that he had suddenly been gifted with the power to perform miracles"? Is it the fact that Mr. Bright declared of the Irish policy of the Liberal Party, "I see it giving tranquility to our people, greater strength to the realm, new lustre and new dignity added to the Crown"? Is it accurate to assert that of the two most able organs of French Liberal opinion, one of them has described the Land Act as "a law of confiscation," and the other, inspired by so advanced a Radical as M. Gambetta, has designated it as "a strong dose of socialism"? These are the quotations, assertions, and charges made by the *Quarterly Review*; and if it be impossible to rebut them, will they be affected by the effort that they form the basis of a Party attack?—*Standard*.

THE NEPAUL CONSPIRACY.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times*, telegraphing on Sunday, says:—Further details have now been received of the conspiracy in Nepal. It appears that a number of persons, chiefly officers in the army, have been plotting for some years past to murder certain members of the royal family, especially the Prime Minister, the Commander-in-chief, and their sons. Having long failed to find an opportunity to do this, they at last determined to imitate the example set years ago by the late Jung Bahadur, who had a bomb into the room where the Ministers were assembled in council. Some of the conspirators were to station themselves at the doors, so as to cut down anyone attempting to escape. If the plot succeeded the news was to be sent to the remaining conspirators, who were to be in the camp with the Prime Minister, and they were to rise and murder him. It does not appear whether they had any design against the life of the young Maharajah, but it is probable that they only intended to get rid of the Ministry and put themselves in their place. Just before the appointed day, one of the conspirators betrayed the plot. A number of arrests were made, and 21 officers of all ranks, varying from that of colonel to that of subadar, confessed and were all executed on the 10th inst.

The latest news, dated Khatmandu, the 20th inst., is that no further executions had taken place, but severely repressive measures had been adopted, and large gifts of money had been distributed to the priests and troops. The officers who were executed were detained to the last, and expressed their regret at the failure of the plot. The country is reported to be quiet and open. Mr. Girdlestone, the British Resident, has, doubtless, arrived at Khatmandu by this time. No danger to him from the mission of the telegraphists is apprehended, but as a precautionary measure, the cavalry outpost at Spowlie, on the borders of the Terai, 100 miles to the south of Khatmandu, has been reinforced by one squadron of native cavalry. General Juggut Jung Bahadur, of the Nepul army, with 178 Europeans, has been ordered to proceed to the Terai, and to proceed to the Terai, and to proceed to the Terai.

THE HERZEGOVINA REVOLT.

The *Standard* has received the subjoined despatch dated Sunday night from its Vienna correspondent:—Intelligence from the south is scarce to-day, owing partly to the interruption of telegraphic communication, but chiefly to the fact that the authorities have prohibited the telegraphing of news from the scene of the insurrection. We are, therefore, reduced to correspondence by letter, which is only possible twice a week. Warlike operations may be expected now at any moment. Large as is the army assembled south, a few thousand insurgents are quite capable of keeping it occupied, and, indeed, wearying it out. Often a whole battalion is kept on the alert by ten or a dozen men, who disappear in the woods and caverns, and suddenly reappear in some new and unexpected place. Sometimes the insurgents will venture on an expedition northwards, where complete calm has hitherto prevailed, and will thus force the Austrians to place their troops everywhere. For the latter there is no glory, but only privation, in store, just as in 1878, when, even the first water for the men and horses, had to be brought from Austria or Hungary. At that time as much as a hundred florins were often offered in vain for a plank bed or shelter, and officers, even the Generals themselves, were frequently brought to death's door by the privation of food. Five hundred millions were carried away by the floods, which are common in these bleak and mountainous regions. It is ridiculous to suppose that a serious insurrection in Bosnia can be quelled at a cost of ten or fourteen millions. In 1878 every man sent to the front cost the Emperor a hundred pounds sterling each man. Although Princes Nikita and Milan really desire to fill their international obligations, they will be utterly powerless to do so should this insurrection assume considerable proportions. The Montenegrins consider that part of the Herzegovina in right belongs to them, and similarly the Serbians lay claim to part of Bosnia. Moreover, the Albanians are eager to renew their struggle for independence. The Berlin Treaty, it is feared, may soon be upset, which would necessarily lead to very serious consequences; but the authorities say that for the next week or two it is probable only small skirmishes will occur. Later, when the mountain snows melt and the ensuing floods come on, impeding the progress of the regular troops, the rising may be expected to assume formidable proportions. The interval will be improved by the Austrians to collect their troops, to provide food, hospital accommodation, waggon, nurses, and all other preparations requisite for the campaign. The general staff is now industriously studying what perhaps will prove to be the seat of the next great war.

Amongst the latest measures reported we learn that the Mostar garrison has been hastily strengthened, and more troops have been sent to the front. The rising may be expected to assume formidable proportions. The interval will be improved by the Austrians to collect their troops, to provide food, hospital accommodation, waggon, nurses, and all other preparations requisite for the campaign. The general staff is now industriously studying what perhaps will prove to be the seat of the next great war.

THE APPROACHING ROYAL MARRIAGE.

The correspondent of the *Standard* at the Hague telegraphing on Sunday night, says:—The Princesses of Waldeck-Pyrmont, mother of Queen Emma and of the Princess Helena of Waldeck, the fiancée of Prince Leopold, will arrive shortly at the Hague on a visit to the King and Queen of the Netherlands. The Princess will, it is believed, remain as a guest at the Dutch Court, and is expected to accompany Prince Leopold, when it is probable that she will accompany King William and Queen Emma on their journey to London. It has been arranged that, shortly before the marriage, their Dutch Majesties will be brought to England by the Royal yacht *Falcon*, which will take their Majesties on board at Flushing and land them at Queenborough. The retinue of their Majesties will include the Countesses van Iltusen and de Pol, and three gentlemen of the Court, Admiral Jonkhoe van Capellen, Colonel Jonkhoe Alexy, and Lieutenant de Ranitz. The Belgian papers state that the King and Queen of Belgium will also be among the guests of Queen Victoria at the time of the marriage of Prince Leopold. The statement, however, requires confirmation.

THE WHIGS AND THE NORTH RIDING.

Lord Grey and Lord Zetland, and the small handful of Whig landlords who are doing all in their power to secure the return of a Conservative and a Protectionist in the North Riding of Yorkshire, because they are so passionately desirous to deliver a severe blow to Mr. Gladstone's Government, are, the *Spectator* says, foolish enough to read backwards Lord Derby's striking warning to those who would keep democracy moderate by assuming the lead of its tendencies:—No one ever uttered a wiser or weightier political aphorism than Lord Derby, in his address to the Liverpool Reform Club a fortnight ago, when he told them that in his

belief, "the moderation, the fairness, and the general justice with which masses of men, under all conditions of life are disposed to use their power" in this country, need nothing to perpetuate them, except that the rich should put themselves at the head of movements leading up to the necessary reforms. That is what we have always claimed for the Whigs. It would have seemed to us hardly credible that a great peer with Lord Grey's splendid antecedents as regards Free Trade—for he was a Free Trader even before Lord John Russell or Sir Robert Peel had accepted the principle of Free Trade—should have been so much of a reactionary, and promised to support the imposition of a 5s. duty on corn—as Mr. Guy Darnley has done in the North Riding—did we not know only too well that Lord Grey has spent three-fourths of his long political career in devising elaborate schemes for the benefit of whom, in early life, was his pride and privilege to act. As for Lord Zetland, and we are unable even to guess at the views which have led him to take up with the reactionary party. But of this we are quite sure—that the few Great Whigs who are now going to the North are doing all that in them lies, not with the effect of retarding reform, though that is what they desire, but with the effect of removing whatever regulative influence they would otherwise have exerted over the conduct of the moral and political life of the country. Lord Grey can no more prevent the English and Scotch tenant farmers obtaining what their numbers, their influence, and the depression of their particular industry point out as necessary for their position in this country, than he could, if he wished, prevent the coming of the Whigs, if they want real help for the Whigs, and not the protection of the Whig nobility and the lords of the land. But he can make the tenant farmers feel more keenly than they feel at present, that the great Whig families are not their true advisers; that they must go over to a stronger party than the Whigs, if they want real help for the Whigs, and not the protection of the Whig nobility and the lords of the land. But he can make the tenant farmers feel more keenly than they feel at present, that the great Whig families are not their true advisers; that they must go over to a stronger party than the Whigs, if they want real help for the Whigs, and not the protection of the Whig nobility and the lords of the land. But he can make the tenant farmers feel more keenly than they feel at present, that the great Whig families are not their true advisers; that they must go over to a stronger party than the Whigs, if they want real help for the Whigs, and not the protection of the Whig nobility and the lords of the land.

THE APOLOGISTS OF JEW-BAITING.

During the past week, the *Saturday Review* says, a very curious spectacle has been seen in England. The abominable outrages to which for months past the Jews of Russia have been subjected have been laid bare, and it could only be supposed that the organs of the Government, of which so much has been heard of late years, would be thoroughly aroused. To do the national conscience justice, it has answered to the call, not, indeed, with all that enthusiasm which might have been expected, but with a certain unanimity. The *Pall Mall Gazette* and the *Spectator* may be said to have gone the furthest in this regard, and to have urged the Government to do all in their power to stop the outrages in the Ukraine, or to throw in the teeth of the Jews that they are only getting as good as they gave some years ago. The political morality which puts so much emphasis on the balance of power in the East, and on the many murders and rapes in Russia in another, and adjudges the palm to the Czar or the Sultan, according to the turn of the scale, is too wonderful and excellent for words. But the organs of the Government, of which so much has been heard of late years, would be thoroughly aroused. To do the national conscience justice, it has answered to the call, not, indeed, with all that enthusiasm which might have been expected, but with a certain unanimity. The *Pall Mall Gazette* and the *Spectator* may be said to have gone the furthest in this regard, and to have urged the Government to do all in their power to stop the outrages in the Ukraine, or to throw in the teeth of the Jews that they are only getting as good as they gave some years ago. 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LONDON, JANUARY 23-24, 1882.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH CONTROL OF EGYPT.

We feel that there are few indeed who are not now prepared to recognize the force and justice of the criticisms we originally passed upon the policy that ended in the establishment of the Anglo-French Control in Egypt. We questioned the expediency of the measures adopted and the urgency of the motives avowed. The deposition of Ismail Pacha, the elevation of Tewfik to the sovereignty, and the appeal to the shadowy authority of the Sultan, were dictated, not so much by the alarm at the advances of the Egyptian Government in Equatorial Africa, or by sympathy for the sufferings of the oppressed fellahs, as by financial interests brought into play by the late Khedive's extravagance and dishonesty. It appeared to us that the true political interests of England in Egypt would have been better secured by an independent control. Nor have we looked with more satisfaction, as our readers are aware, on some of the more recent developments of the policy of the Anglo-French intervention. But we have to do with a state of things founded upon the intervention and inseparable from it. The Control was established by England and France with the assent of all the other European Powers. Not only was there no protest made at the time by Germany—where the National party in Egypt are now expecting vaguely to obtain sympathy and, perhaps, succour—but the initiative on which the two Western Powers acted was supplied by Prince Bismarck. In fact, if not in form, England and France acted in Egypt as the delegates of the European concert, and, having accepted that mission and undertaken serious responsibilities in consequence, they cannot surrender their rights or give way to anarchical disturbances and unworthy intrigues. The European Powers have acquiesced in what has been accomplished in Egypt by the Anglo-French Control, and it must be admitted, even by those who censured the policy in which that system originated, that a large measure of practical success has been achieved. The finances of Egypt have been once more put upon a basis of solvency and regularity, while at the same time the burdens upon the peasant-cultivators have been immensely lightened. As all the European Governments were substantially responsible for the establishment of the Control, so, too, both parties in this country have had their share in upholding it. The question, therefore, is one which it ought to be possible to discuss both at home and abroad, in a spirit of sobriety and with complete freedom from bias. It is true, indeed, that while insisting on the necessity for firmness in our Egyptian policy we must acknowledge that the claims of the National party in Egypt, so far as they are not factitious, deserve much sympathy. One of the principal objections to the Anglo-French intervention was that it shattered whatever native elements of strength existed in Egypt. Ismail Pacha was a bad ruler, but his successors have scarcely been from the beginning a rule at all. Sir William Gregory, the Anglo-French party and their leader, Arabi Bey, with much literary power and dialectical skill, and we are by no means disposed to reject his conclusions, regarded in the abstract. If it were possible to go back to the situation with which we had to deal in Egypt before Ismail Pacha's Government broke down hopelessly, there would be much difficulty in pre-emptorily rejecting the pretensions of the National party. It is probable that if the trial had been made the elements of a vigorous and healthy self-government would have been found altogether wanting; but, at any rate, the experiment was not tried, and the Anglo-French Control, which has bestowed upon Egypt great practical benefits, cannot be set aside in favour of the problematical advantages to be evolved out of the chaos that would now be produced by giving the reins rashly to ungoverned and, perhaps, unreal national aspirations. If the nascent spirit of nationality in Egypt had taken root in a strong and settled native Government, we might regard the movement at present agitating Egypt with more sanguine hopes. But, supposing the Anglo-French Control to be overthrown, what is to follow? What promise of stability is there in the Council of Notables? What is the National party, outside the army? Is there, in truth, an Egypt which is capable of political representation and of healthy progress under a system of self-government? These are questions to which we find no satisfactory answers in Sir William Gregory's pleading. It appears to us that the Council of Notables—with good intentions, doubtless, are actuated by feelings which, even when unreasonable, are natural enough—possesses neither the character nor the tangible relation to the Egyptian masses. The populace of the towns, vehement in tumultuous protest against foreign influence, has still less title to be called national. The Khedive and his ministers are hardly the men to stand alone. There is on the really important factor in the problem, and that is the army. No do the Arabi Bey and his fellow-soldiers be bold

enough, without other backing, to try the experiment of an independent Egypt ruled as the Mamelukes ruled it, with the force of military oligarchy. But such a dominion would not be national in any true sense; it would be undermined by its inherent vices, and it would not be able to cope with the jealousies and ambitions to which it would be exposed. It is proper to pay every attention to the representations of the Nobles and to bear in mind that the aims of the National party, though they may be impracticable, are worthy of respect. We have no doubt that the English and French Governments will do all that may be possible to remove any cause of complaint and to promote the gradual and steady development of a state of things in which it may be practicable to hand over to the people of Egypt a large part of the control now administered by Europeans. But to this end the co-operation of the Egyptians themselves is needed. Nothing can more seriously impede progress in the direction of Egyptian self-government than the recurrence of panics and tumults, appeals to violence and fanaticism, the menace of military force, and the reliance upon the secret working of international animosities and grudges. These disturbing movements tend only to anarchy, and into anarchy this country cannot, in any circumstances whatever, allow Egypt to fall.—Times.

FRENCH SPECULATION IN ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS.

The many and serious questions which have been agitating Italian political circles of late have sunk into insignificance in comparison with the strange news that six of the leading Italian Newspapers have been purchased en bloc by France. The wildest speculations are, of course, indulged in as to the nature and objects of the transaction, but it seems to be admitted on all hands that the *Diritto*, the *Fanfulla*, the *Liberta*, the *Bersagliere*, and the *Italia* of Rome, together with the *Pungolo* of Milan, have been transferred to the Banque Romaine of Paris, by a well-known banker and newspaper agent and proprietor for the sum of two million eight hundred thousand francs, or one hundred and twelve thousand pounds sterling. The account of the affair which gains most general credence is that about a week ago it was telegraphed to Paris that agents of M. Gambetta were in Rome negotiating for the purchase of one or more newspapers, to be employed in counteracting the feeling of distrust against France which has been recently growing up in Italy. The communication added that a condition of the sale was that the newspapers thus bought should for the future support the views and policy of the purchasers. Signor Obieght, the banker and newspaper proprietor above referred to, at once wrote to the Roman evening Journals disclaiming any desire to control the policy of the Press, and explained the affair by saying that he had simply converted his own large Newspaper agency into a limited liability Company, with a capital of three million francs, divided into five hundred franc shares. This apology or explanation was not very readily accepted, and the report was made that, at any rate, the great News-agent had, by his own admission, given to a French Company the control of a large portion of the Press, so far as proprietary rights were concerned. The transaction may, as Signor Obieght asserts, be a purely commercial one, but the Italian public and the Italian Journalists seem to think otherwise, and accordingly all other topics of public interest are for the moment forgotten. Signor Crispi's organ, the *Riforma*, bitterly laments the manner in which French commercial enterprise is drawing an insidious network of material interests around Italy, and, without reason, reminds its readers that these very interests were made the pretext of the Tunisian Expedition and the Joint Control in Egypt. It concludes the article with a prediction that France will, if such things are allowed to go on, create a Tunis or an Egypt at the foot of the Alps in order to have a pretext, when opportunity offers, for intervening in Italian affairs, in the combined interests of the Republican and Clerical parties, who, it is to be presumed, will coalesce on this occasion. In view of the vast advantages which France will derive from the purchase of Italian newspapers, it further warns its fellow patriots that they may wake up some morning to find a Hannibal not only at the gates, but in the house. The journals which are said to have been thus recklessly traded away to the stranger have made strong protests in favour of their own independence, and declared that their editors and staff will resign to a man rather than submit to foreign dictation as to their politics. Signor Torrace, editor of the *Diritto*, which has always supported the Left, and is one of the organs of the present Ministry, has published a manifesto on the subject, in which he declares that duty imposes upon him and his colleagues, "not to abandon the flag for which they have fought, and to which they are devoted. The principles of the press are public patrimony, which is not to be sold or bartered. For our own part," he continues, "we shall stand on our guard over this patrimony. We may be removed, but we will never surrender." Both his patriotism and his resolve were soon put to the test, for, according to a telegram, he has already resigned his post on the *Diritto*, and established a rival paper called the *Rassogna*, taking his entire staff with him. This certainly looks as though there were some truth in the original report, that the purchase was made with a political motive, and that the purchasers, in the case of the *Diritto* at least, acted with undue precipitation, and showed their hand too soon. The *Fanfulla* declares that the conversion cannot affect its policy, as Signor Obieght already owns seven-twelfths of the paper; but it may, like the *Diritto*, have to reckon with the eminent News-agent's French partners. If the object of the transaction be really a political one, its certain failure may be predicted, for no contract between the proprietors of these Papers and a foreign Company can either bind the Editors and staff to remain and advocate principles to which they are opposed, or prevent them from following the example of the Editor of the *Diritto* and setting up a rival journal. As a commercial speculation the purchase is a still more doubtful adventure, for it is to be presumed that the subscribers to a paper are for the most part composed of those whose politics it advocates, and when it adopts diametrically

opposite opinions, it is only reasonable to suppose that they will cease to take it in. It is difficult, therefore, to see what end can be served by the purchase, though the ways of political underhanders are always devious, even when they are not further complicated by the mysteries of the great Bull and Bear fight of the Bourse. One thing is certain, and that is that the Italian mind is much exercised about the affair, and that there seems no disposition whatever on the part of Italian journalists to barter their freedom of thought and speech either at the bidding of speculators or foreign politicians. We hope that it would be, in any case, impossible to purchase an Italian newspaper in the interests of foreign politicians; but however that may be, the enterprising French Company who have bought up the six leading Italian papers have clearly not gone the right way to work to secure that object.—Standard.

M. GAMBETTA'S ABERRATIONS.

The position of affairs in France has at present a more than common interest for Englishmen. At no time since the Crimean war has English policy been so interwoven with French policy as it is now. We are carrying out a joint protectorate and negotiating a commercial treaty. More than this, we have so managed matters that the smooth working of these arrangements seems to depend on the continuance in power of a particular Minister. We have not only put our eggs in one basket, as regards Europe—France being at this moment the only Power whom we except by courtesy, we can call friendly—but we have put them all in one basket as regards France herself. The friendship of France, such as it is, seems to be identified with M. Gambetta. If he remains Prime Minister we shall retain it; if he is beaten, among the first fruits of his defeat will probably be the adoption of a protectionist policy in fiscal matters, and possibly of a more irritating if not a more active policy in Egyptian matters. Englishmen, therefore, cannot but watch with something like personal concern the method in which M. Gambetta carries his struggle with the Chamber of Deputies. What meets their eyes, at all events, is not reassuring as to M. Gambetta's chances. In his interview with the Committee of Thirty-three on Saturday he seems to have gone out of his way to irritate the Extreme Left, and in doing this to have taken a line which was equally well calculated to offend Moderate Republicans. The only sections of opinion who could have been genuinely pleased by his remarks are the Bonapartists and the Legitimists: the Bonapartists because the Prime Minister showed himself not indisposed to what may be the least he colourably described as a coup d'Etat; the Legitimists because M. Gambetta does but too emphatically his favourite thesis that a French Republic must always end in Caesarism. In saying what he did M. Gambetta was doubly ill-advised. It is always a mistake to talk of a coup d'Etat beforehand, but it is still more so now that it is certain that the Minister who talks of it would not have the power to carry it out. The point pressed on M. Gambetta was—Supposing the National Assembly to disregard the vote of the two Chambers defining the questions upon which it is to deliberate, how can this be prevented? M. Gambetta answered that such action on the part of the Chamber would be illegal and that the President of the Republic would consider how to deal with it. There does not seem to be anything in the Constitution to bear out M. Gambetta's view; and unless he could give Mr. Grévy chapter and verse for what he asked him to do, we may be sure that Mr. Grévy would refuse. The President has bided his time very patiently, even when it seemed almost hopeless that it would ever come; but he would then have the finest opportunity that he could desire. M. Gambetta would have proposed to a Constitutional Chief of the State to disperse a National Assembly meeting in the town of Lyons, and the Chambers convoked to revise the Constitution: could there be a more odious line in which to present an Advanced Republican Minister to the nation? Mr. Grévy would only have to announce that, as M. Gambetta had proposed to him to violate his obligations under the Constitution by dispersing the National Assembly he had thought it is duty to dismiss him, to make sure for the time of the support of the whole country. M. Gambetta, therefore, has been guilty of the twofold error of uttering a threat which he could not carry out, and of his speech, referred to above, which at without giving the gravest and most lasting cause of offence to the majority of the Deputies. His prospects, consequently, seem to be very much worse than they were down to Saturday. He has given the Chamber real cause to doubt his fitness for office. Each of his dealings with this question of revision has been more imprudent than the last. He has proposed unnecessary changes in the Constitution by way of excuse for foisting *servitut de liste* into the organic laws; he has made his continuance in office dependent on his success in bullying the Chamber of Deputies into accepting the Government proposal; and now, when he sees that the National Assembly may slip through his fingers, he intimates that if it goes beyond the line marked for it will be dealt with as a revolutionary body. So strange a series of imprudences, and worse than imprudences, has seldom been seen.—St. James's Gazette.

THE RISING IN DALMATIA.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphed on Monday night:—The fact is becoming obvious that Austria will not merely have to battle against single bands of insurgents, but that the insurrection is well organized and directed from a central point. President Tisza has sent a circular to all papers. Press appealing to their patriotism to publish no more details upon the movements of the troops in Dalmatia and the occupied provinces, as the publication of these details might render the military disposition of no avail. On the 20th last bands of insurgents appeared in the Duvrava. 150 insurgents forced the gendarmes of Glavicevo to withdraw to Konjica. More insurgents are advancing towards Konjica. 3,000 insurgents have assembled above Kamen, near Vratlo. The general commanding in Berajovo reports that 500 insurgents armed with Snider rifles, and several hundred armed with hatchets have assembled in the Zagorje, commanded by Serdar Turuz. Other bands are terrorizing the surrounding districts. On the 17th the gendarmes of Kalinovos were attacked by 150 insurgents. Three companies sent to their aid from Fotscha found Vratlo

occupied by 200 insurgents. Three more companies, from Jelez and Boria, succeeded in clearing Vratlo. News from Kalinovos states that an encounter took place on the 18th between Ulok and Nevesinje. A Jaeger battalion on the 18th reconnoitred the district round Ulok, and found a line of sentinels extending for 3,000 paces. After an hour's conflict the battalion returned to Nevesinje. Travellers arriving from South Dalmatia report that the gendarmery garrison in Stolac was set fire to. Nine persons perished in the flames. The same day several persons gathered with the landlord of a tavern and killed him, although his wife offered them 4,000 florins to spare his life. The Crisvian insurgents are circulating all over the country a revolutionary proclamation. It is written in Serbian, with Cyrillic letters. The contents of such a character that they cannot be reproduced in Austria.

The Lloyd Company has received orders to have ships ready to transport two infantry regiments and four Jaeger battalions. The regiments of several regiments in Prague, Genesvar, Znaim, and Vienna have received orders to march south. The English squadron in the Mediterranean is concentrating at Malta.

We learn from Ragusa that, last Thursday, Prince Nicholas was not more than three Hercegovinian deputations in Danjowgrad asking for support from Montenegro. The Austro-Hungarian Minister-resident was present. The Prince answered that they must not calculate upon his support, and ordered that the members of the deputations should be well interned them all. In Polgoriza fifteen Albanians and seven Bulgarians, a priest among the number, have been arrested and sent to Constantinople. They took part in the war in Macedonia, instigated by the Pan-Slavist committee in Sophia. In four Communes of the Petrovatz district recruits from Christian families have been enlisted without difficulty. They promised to serve the Emperor faithfully, and hoped that the Austro-Hungarian Government would be satisfied with the Mohammedans announced the intention of emigrating; but they will probably do nothing of the kind. They declare that conscience forbids them to serve any other than the Sultan. News reaches us that the Sultan is giving land to the Bosnian emigrants.

THE EGYPTIAN DIFFICULTY.

The *Standard* correspondent at Cairo telegraphs on Monday night:—Though I cannot say that the situation has as yet materially improved, it seems to me that there are various indications pointing in the direction of a not unfriendly settlement of the main points in dispute. I have had the opportunity of discussing with many influential men here, of all shades of opinion, the various aspects of the crisis, and they concur in thinking that unless something very unexpected occurs a compromise ought to be, and will be, effected. One fact is certain—that the Chamber of Deputies is anxious to arrange a compromise with the Chamber of Deputies with reference to the demand to vote the Budget. The proposal of Cherif is to the effect that the Chamber shall nominate a number of Deputies corresponding in rank to the members of the Government and the Controllers General, and that they shall participate in fixing the Budget items. Whether this partial proposal will be accepted or not is at present uncertain. What seems to me more important is that the general political tone has become considerably lower in the last forty-eight hours, and that many high-toned pretensions are no longer pressed. In a state of things where a single rash act or foolish speech might provoke not merely an *emute* but a revolution, it would be unwise to assume a too high tone. Nor is it easy to explain in so many words in which particular respects the situation may be said to have improved. But my impression distinctly is that, in the absence of the unexpected, the worst of the crisis is over, and that the removal of the Egyptian difficulty to beyond the reach of a clever and conciliatory diplomatist.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, MONDAY.
The Queen went out this morning with Princess Beatrice, The Hon. and Rev. Francis Baring had the honour of dining with her Majesty yesterday.
The Prince of Wales and a distinguished party arrived on Monday afternoon at Dranglman, Thorne, the seat of Mr. Sykes, M.P. for a week's shooting and hunting. Amongst the party invited to meet the Prince are the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Londesborough, the Marquis of Abernethy, the Earl of Arundel, Lord Ormskirk, Lord Herries, and Sir G. O. Wombwell.
The Duke of Edinburgh, who arrived at Kirkcaldy on Sunday night, landed on Monday morning for the purpose of inspecting the coastguard army receiving the freedom of the burgh. The streets of the town were crowded. His Royal Highness received a most hearty welcome. After inspecting the coastguard His Royal Highness was driven to the County Buildings, where the freedom of the burgh conferred by Provost Reid, who, in the course of his speech, referred to the visit made by the Prince Consort 18 years ago. The illustrious freeman briefly replied, thanking the Provost and magistrates for the honour conferred upon him. Enthusiastic cheers were given for the Queen, the Royal Family, and the Duchess of Edinburgh by those present, all hall being crowded.
The Duke of Westminster left Grosvenor House on Monday for Eaton Hall.
The Earl and Countess of Rosslyn have left for their country residence, from Easton Lodge, Dumfries, for the season.
Sir Watkin Wynne contradicts the report to the effect that he did not intend to notify the days on which his household would meet during the stay of the Empress of Austria at Osborne Abbey.
The combined Leicestershire Hunt Ball is to take place at the County Assembly Rooms at Leicester on February 9, under the patronage of the Duke of Rutland, Earl Ferrers, and the masters of the other five packs hunting within the county, viz. The Aberstone, Billesden, Cottesmore, Fytchley, and Quorn. The gathering is expected to be most brilliant, as upwards of 80 of the principal hunting men have consented to act as stewards.

THE PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The Lord Mayor has decided to convene a public meeting at the Mansion House in order to give expression to public feeling respecting the persecution which the Jews of Russia have undergone since the year 1846, and the memorial presented to the Lord Mayor on the subject is signed by persons representing every shade of religious and political opinion. Among them are the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of London, Gloucester and Bristol, and Manchester; Lord Shaftesbury, Mr. Samuel Morley, Cardinal Manning, Mr. H. Richard, Professor Tyndall, Mr. Matthew Arnold, and Mr. Darwin.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")
The Prime Minister has been asked to receive an influential deputation on the subject of the opinion dated as soon after the meeting of Parliament as will be convenient to himself. Mr. Alderman McArthur (the late Lord Mayor), who, with Lord Shaftesbury, was requested by the Mansion House meeting to arrange the proposed interview, is now at Nice, on his way back to England.
Captain Knapp Barrow, C.M.G., who brought home the gold axe from the King of Ashantee, is about to return to the Gold Coast, having been appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary to the Governor.

ARREST OF A BANK DIRECTOR.—SOME EXCITEMENT WAS CAUSED IN MANCHESTER ON MONDAY WHEN IT BECAME KNOWN THAT MR. J. NICOL FLEMING, OF THE CITY OF GLASGOW BANK DIRECTOR, HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE CITY. IT APPEARS THAT ON FRIDAY LAST THE MANCHESTER POLICE RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM THE GLASGOW AUTHORITIES REQUESTING THAT REVENUE INQUIRIES MIGHT BE MADE FOR MR. FLEMING.

In consequence of the telegram Detective-sergeant Caminada was directed to make careful inquiry into the matter, and, after all most continuous watching night and day, the officer on Monday saw Fleming walking in the grounds of a relative about eleven o'clock in the forenoon. Caminada immediately arrested him, and drove off with him to the Town Hall in a cab. The Glasgow police were at once communicated with by telegraph, and a reply was received during the course of the day to the effect that an officer would be sent off by the authorities there, and would probably arrive in Manchester during the night. On the arrival of the Glasgow detective Fleming would be handed over to his custody. It is understood that the arrest has been made after the discovery of the reckless dealings which culminated in the collapse of the bank. Fleming was a director of the bank for a period of years which ended in July, 1875. He had been involved in gigantic commercial operations of a speculative character, and, as was revealed in the Bankruptcy Court, he was insolvent as far back as 1871. At that time he owed the Bank about £24,000, but notwithstanding his position he continued to receive advances until, at the date of the stoppage of the Bank, his indebtedness amounted to over a million sterling. When the warrants were issued for the arrest of the Directors and ex-Director Fleming, the latter absconded, and it was supposed took refuge in Spain. He also visited America, and returned to England some months ago. He was examined in bankruptcy in London in November last, and on the 29th of December Mr. Sheriff Murray, in the Glasgow Bankruptcy Court, granted his discharge, which will not be set aside for fifteen months. At the same time the learned Sheriff severely condemned Fleming's conduct in failing to appear for examination in 1879, which he considered a gross contempt of court. Fleming's estate produced fifteen pence in the pound. The Prisoner will be tried either at the Glasgow Circuit Court or at the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh.

ENGLISH LANDSCAPE PAINTING.

A glory seems to have faded from the domain of British art with the loss of John Linnell. Landscape painting has been an especial possession of these islands since the reared an art school of their own. Gainsborough, Constable, Bonington, Callcott, Crome, Turner, and Linnell make a company of which any country might be proud. The Academy has not always valued landscape painting as it ought. It does not value it adequately now. John Linnell should not have been permitted to remain outside its pale. Early appreciation might have induced him to court a dignity which later he did not need and is supposed to have declined. Landscape painters, though not to be classed with labour still, and the Academy appears to have no eyes for their merits. Elsewhere they are more highly esteemed than by the titular chiefs of their common profession. No form of art charms more irresistibly. From none does an Englishman experience a fuller satisfaction of emotions and thoughts which cannot otherwise be fully represented. Either the landscape is a branch of other branches of art, or it is a branch of art which must be more extraordinarily exalted than might be inferred from the annual evidence in Piccadilly, or the scanty proportion of names among the Academicians and Associates associated with the representation of natural scenery to a strange injustice to one department of painting, and a contempt of one marked national taste. Landscape painters in these later times may, perhaps, have contributed to their own relegation to a secondary place in professional rank. They witness daily excursions into their particular province by the painters of history or domestic life. They seldom think of retaliating, as the Gainsboroughs and Turners retaliated of old, by rolling the tide of invasion back to their own back. There is an abrogation of the contemplation of nature so profound as to indispense the mind for anything else. The intermixture of an element of human passion or action appears in such a mood an intrusion and a discord. When the elevation of the landscape is such a disinclination, the reluctance to tamper with the jealous monopoly of artistic thought by natural beauty must be pardoned and respected. But, for landscape painters below the highest, art cannot safely be thus confined to a single order of subjects. A painter who insists upon looking at a landscape as necessarily nothing beside, and not as a stage on which passages from the grand drama of humanity may be played, is very apt to conclude that he has created a picture when he has only sketched a collection of photographs. That was what John Linnell never did, and never could have done. He had served an apprenticeship to the delineation of the characters of men before he devoted himself to a kind of landscape painting analogous to songs without words. His scenery is never desert, though the human agents may be subordinate and obscure. His landscapes are the framework of a human story, though the ostensible figures in the sunny foreground may compel the eye to look aside as a group in a faded piece by one of the Poussins. A direct link with human life was never wanting to a work by him. Landscapes by the younger generation are too often vacant of humanity without the presence of the spirit of nature to counteract the monotony of the scene. If landscape painters desire to force a recognition of equality with their historical brethren, they would do well to challenge them, more than has been recently the custom, on their own ground. John Linnell has shown on a number of occasions that a landscape painter need not be less natural than it is human also. If, working after his fashion, landscape painters like him do not then have their proper share in the honours of the Academy, it will be, not that they cannot, but that, like him, they will not.—Times.

A HAUNTED MAN.—Strange Story.—A singular-looking man, who stated that his name was Hans Andersen, appeared at the Thames Police-court, on Saturday, for the purpose, as he said, of seeing the Recorder to find him some work to do. Andersen had previously come on Wednesday afternoon to make a similar application, and he then told an extraordinary story. He stated that he was a Dane, but that he had never visited his country since the year 1846, when he was driven into exile in consequence of his having got mixed up with some secret political society. Since then he had visited nearly every civilized country in the world, and had taken part in various great movements. He knew Kosuth and had fought under Garibaldi, and had been acquainted with and trusted by other leaders of men. The Emperor Nicholas of Russia knew him and feared him, for just before the commencement of the Crimean War he had had a letter set upon him, passing through his dominions. He was about to be transported to Siberia, when he managed to escape by bribing his guards, and after some extraordinary adventures he got across the frontier, and on board a vessel bound for England. He stayed in America for a time, and then went to America, where he arrived just as the seeds of civil war were ripening. When the strife began he joined the Secessionists, under General Beauregard. When the war was over, not caring to stay in the States any longer, he went through Italy, Spain, and Germany, and was initiated and made a member of the brotherhood of several secret societies in each of those countries. The consequence was that he became a marked man, and the Governments of the countries he had named had all conspired to hunt him down. Their emissaries were constantly upon his track trying to seize him and throw him either into a prison or an asylum. In addition to this he was haunted by his old comrades who had died long ago, night and day. Some of them were constantly with him whispering in his ears or beckoning to him with their fingers, as if asking him to join them. He had tried all he could to get away from them, but ashore or aloft their white faces were always by his side. There were so many of them lately that he could not engage him. He wanted to get on board ship and pay another visit to China and Australia, but he could not, as the people who were with him prevented him, and he therefore wanted some one to go down to the shipping office with him and keep them away whilst he signed articles. The poor fellow was informed by one of the officers as he was told previously by Mr. Saunders that there was no necessity for any one to go down with him to the office, as he would not be interested if he went straight to his business. Andersen left the building, declaring that he supposed he should have to knock some of their brains out, and then they would leave him alone.

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LONDON. JANUARY 26-27, 1882.

M. GAMBETTA'S DEFEAT.

The *Standard* says :—The world at large, brushing aside all subordinate arguments, will look upon the defeat of M. Gambetta not only as richly deserved, but as one which it is difficult to doubt that he wended deliberately out of his way to court. There are many persons who believe that he adopted the perverse course which has led to his overthrow from malice prepense and through a conviction that it would minister to his ultimate advantage to divest himself for the present of the worry and responsibilities of office. The suspicion is intelligible, and may be well-founded.

But, seeing that it is singularly dishonouring to M. Gambetta, and can by no possibility be established as a fact beyond dispute, it is perhaps better to fall back upon a simpler and more natural explanation, and to believe that the real cause of the downfall of M. Gambetta was his resolve to master the Chamber, and the resolve of the Chamber not to be mastered. Not the least eloquent nor the least telling portion of his speech was that in which he repudiated the imputation that he seeks to become Dictator of France. He said he, to pursue the metaphor, he would only make himself a common laughing-stock. But surely M. Gambetta somewhat misapprehended the nature of the charge that serious politicians direct against him. None but Parliamentary fanatics suppose that M. Gambetta aspires to become Dictator of France in the sense that General Bonaparte or Louis Napoleon became Dictators; or that he meditates dissolving the Chamber by force, sending the Representatives to the Bastille, and making Mazas and the bagne with the help of subaltern bayonets. But there is a form of Dictatorship which is not the less real because it is not ostensible and ostentatious. There is the Dictatorship of dominating natures—of natures that cannot tolerate men of marked ability or independent character in the same Cabinet with themselves, and whose instinct of personal ascendancy is to engage, at the earliest possible moment, in a duel to the death with the Legislature which they are supposed as much to follow as to lead. M. Gambetta and his Ministry have wrecked M. Gambetta and his Ministry is his inherent and ineradicable passion for supreme power. No doubt he would exercise this only by the weapons of the brain and tongue, by argument, by eloquence, by persistent will, by superior capacity. But men resent this sort of despotism even more, perhaps, than they do of the cruder forms of tyranny. The man who is always right, and who must always have his own way, ends by becoming intolerable; and it is an exaggeration to say that, in the course of a few months—practically speaking, a few weeks—M. Gambetta has made himself intolerable to the Chamber that deliberately lifted him, we might almost say thrust him, into power.

himself say three hundred and thirty-five." The foregoing statement of France opens now a new chapter of his political life. M. Gambetta sitting in the body of the House as Deputy for Belleville will be a very different person from M. Gambetta expectantly and indolently loling in the President's chair, or from M. Gambetta on the front Ministerial Bench. Recent English Parliamentary annals scarcely afford parallel to the position which he will occupy. Pitt, under the Administration of Mr. Addington, is the nearest approach to it that our history affords. Lord John Russell watching to overthrow Lord Palmerston, and Lord Palmerston waiting in vain for Russell to throw out the Lord Chancellor, present the nearest very recent resemblances to the posture of affairs in the French Chamber, with M. Gambetta as a private member under a Ministry of M. de Freycinet, M. Léon Say, or M. Jules Ferry. But neither Lord John Russell nor Lord Palmerston possessed during the period of their mutual rivalry anything like the ascendancy over any section of the Liberal party which M. Gambetta, notwithstanding the recent vote, has, or is likely soon to re-acquire, over probably a majority of the Republicans in the Chamber of Deputies. The authority is not perhaps altogether that of confidence or of affection. It is based on something like personal fear of the man against whom, for his towering superiority over any actual or, so far as we can see at present, possible rival, M. Gambetta will, it is said, bring forward as a private member the great schemes of reform which he enumerated on Thursday, and which are destined to show that if he was not at the head of the much-rumoured Grand Ministry, he was yet a great Minister. They will be paraded before the Chamber and before France in order that the world may see what they have lost in M. Gambetta's overthrow. The position is difficult to the verge of impossibility. Disorganization in the Chamber will probably be effected by the recall of M. Gambetta to power, and by a penal dissolution, or possibly by the abject submission of the Deputies in February or March to the proposals which they have rejected in January.

PRINCE BISMARCK'S EXPLANATIONS

The dramatic character of the scene in the German Parliament the other day tends to obscure the real issues. It has been supposed that Prince Bismarck wished to excite and overawe the Reichstag, but an explosion of violent anger can hardly be regarded as an evidence of a settled purpose. In reality the tone of the Chancellor's speech seems to show that the situation is in some respects considerably less serious than the Liberals believed after the issue of the now famous Rescript. They understood that, in the opinion of the King, every Government official in Prussia was bound to support any proposals which he might choose to set forth through his Ministers. Prince Bismarck, however, explained that officials of all ranks are free to express their pleasure ; it is only expected that they will not agitate against a policy which has received the royal sanction. To Englishmen it may appear hard that even this restriction should be placed on the liberty of a large and important class ; but it is worth while to recall the fact that it is not so very long since precisely the same demands were made in this country. When Burns expressed sympathy with the revolutionary party in France, the Excise Board made close inquiry into his conduct ; and he was at one time on the point of being dismissed from the public service. The Board have often been condemned for their interference ; but the latest biographer of Burns, Mr. Thompson, urges in their defence that "to have allowed any of their subordinates to set themselves up by word or deed in opposition to the Ministry," would have been "inconsistent with the ideas of the time as to official duty." Some Prussian officials would, no doubt, be pleased to have perfect political liberty ; but as long as their votes are free, the majority of them are not likely to complain much of the minor grievance. Few members of the official class would care in any case to associate themselves with a violent agitation, at least on the Liberal side. With regard to Prince Bismarck's interpretation of the relations of Ministers to the Crown, there can be no

about as to its general soundness. A Minister has never been dismissed from office in Prussia merely because Parliament has refused to accept his measures. He is responsible to the Sovereign alone, and while he retains the Sovereign's confidence nothing that his opponents can do, even if they form a large majority in Parliament, can imperil his position. This is not only the theory of the Constitution, but it may be questioned whether any other system of government would be practicable in the present condition of parties in Prussia and Germany. Ministers are not responsible to the English sense, implies that parties are fairly well defined, and that a tolerably stable majority will give its support, at least for a time, to any Cabinet which may be formed. If this anticipation were not well founded, there could not be even an approach to continuity in the political life of the country. Ministers would be compelled to carry on incessant intrigue, and serious legislation would be rendered impossible. Now, neither in Prussia nor in the German Empire is there any political party strong enough to maintain a Government in office. At the same time, the Ministers for the Reichstag the Liberals were unexpectedly successful, but if an Imperial Ministry of Liberal sympathies were appointed it would be removed from office on the first occasion on which it proposed an important subject for discussion. The Liberals do not nearly equal all other parties combined; and they themselves are united only in opposition to a particular set of principles. The Clericals and the Conservatives, either separately or acting together, would be quite as powerless as the Liberals to uphold a Government; and the same may be said of any coalition of parties which ever has been seriously suggested. Even, therefore, if the Sovereign were willing to give up the rights conferred on him by the Constitution, he could not afford to do so: the change would mean a constant succession of Cabinets, each more feeble than the last, and absolutism in one form or another would become inevitable.—*St. James's Gazette.*

THE STATE OF THE MONEY MARKET.

Whatever may be before speculators in stocks and shares, we may be quite sure that no reason can arise from any alarm by bona fide investors. If a panic comes, the wise thing will be for every man who can afford to do so to hold on.—

It is when the outside public rush to sell out the investments the returns on which constitute their means of living that a really formidable crisis is produced, and that great public inconvenience arises. The result of the recent result of the recent Stock Exchange panic ought only to hurt speculators, or men of business who have too heavily trusted them. It is quite possible that there may be a general fall in the price of securities, and, indeed, there has already been in a good measure. The result of the recent panic has been the very high prices touched last year. The improvement of business will call for the employment of more capital, and money which now seeks investment in stock and shares will be put into trade. The result of the recent panic will be that individuals will find themselves obliged to part with sound securities to raise money to pay the calls on the vast multitude of new companies which have come into being in the last year. But the increase of trade is likely to augment the real value of railway stocks and of other investments which are affected by the activity of our commercial transactions, and hence even their present high prices may be sustained although the conditions which have abnormally forced them up are withdrawn. At present it is almost impossible to invest money toiling manfully about the market half a century. A slight decrease in the market price of sound securities would not in any way indicate that the revenue yielded by them to permanent investors was likely to diminish—the prospect at this moment is rather of increase than of decrease—but would indicate that the market was placing their investments on somewhat better terms.—*Daily News.*

THE RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT HORNBY

Further inquiry into the cause and nature of the collision between the two passenger trains of the Great Northern Railway on Wednesday evening fully convinced us that the accident was the result of a thick fog having cleared away in the afternoon bore down again on Hornsey soon after five o'clock in a form so appalling that one of the men employed at the station ran and informed his chief that black clouds were rolling up from the north-east, and that the fog was closing in on an end. The fog signalmen were sent for, but having so recently left duty they could hardly appear again on the instant. A passenger who was in the stationary train says that he heard the guard whistle twice, as a signal to start, but that the train did not start, and that he saw the engine and his companions, all working men, filling a smoking carriage, called out jocularly, "All right, go on, we are all ready." The next instant they felt a thundering blow on the carriage, succeeded by thick darkness, followed by a feeling of being first pitched up and down, and then coming to a sudden stop. The accident occurred at a point where the two lines crossed, and he found himself in another moment prone on the platform without the least idea how he got there. His first impulse was to call for his mate. Scores of similar cries arose, mixed with shrieks, wails, and groans, and the passengers, who were in the carriages of the two trains, and ran hither and thither like great black phantoms in the thick fog, calling for their friends, and demanding help. While there can be no reasonable doubt that every effort would be made and was used on the part of the railway company to give aid, it is a sad and sad fact that one of the sufferers only reached the hospital at ten o'clock, the collision having occurred at half-past five, and that he was conveyed from Kings-cross in a van which jolted horribly and put him to severe pain. There is on the other hand every reason to believe that the accident was the result of an action acted with promptitude and effect. Immediately on the occurrence the station-master made it his first business to block both up and down lines by seeing that the danger signal was put on at Finsbury-park, a mile and a half south, and at Wood-green, a mile north. The fog cleared away, and the signalmen, and that both these stations were comparatively clear. Express trains were due on both up and down lines.

The guard of the advancing train, it seems, after it entered the fog, was unable to see any regular signal. The first light he beheld was one put on at the end of the platform after the first train had passed. He mistook it for the light to be the distant signal of Hornsey, instead of being, as it was, within sixty yards of another train, the guard put on his vacuum brake, and brought pressure to bear in checking the train. The train, however, was too far towards the north, and even with the brake on and without steam, the momentum of the heavily-laden train must have given a rate of something like eight miles an hour at the moment the brake was cast on. The effect was that the train had been first to jump up and then to "telescope" the doomed third-class carriage. The roof flew off, the compartments were smashed together, the passengers

fatal sandwiched between them. In the two fatal cases death appears to have been instantaneous. The injured, as is usual in railway accidents, have suffered most severely by fractured legs, chiefly below the knee, due, no doubt, to the jamming together of the rails. In the case of the girl, the right leg was broken up. Of the eleven cases at the Metropolitan Free Hospital, five have sustained fractures of the legs, one a scalp wound and fracture of the shoulder, another dislocation of the hip, another injury to the spine, and another a slight fracture of the back. The other patients, all doing fairly well, but in the case of Mary Ann Chowies, sixty years of age, who has sustained compound fracture of the right leg and right thigh, and a fracture of the left leg, the chances of recovery are all but hopeless. Mrs. Chowies was accompanied by her mother, who is now in the hospital, and it is since the death of her mother had lived with her grandfather and grandmother at Wood-green. This girl was killed by the side of her relative. Her father, who carries on business as a French polisher in London, did not receive intelligence of her death that night, nor did he know of her death until two days after the announcement of a railway accident, imagine that it so nearly concerned himself. His sister was expected to accompany her mother home, but had fortunately remained in London. In addition to the eleven persons under treatment at the hospitals, there are about one or more who are expected to reach their homes at Wood-green, but are now under medical care, one suffering from concussion of the brain.

A correspondent who was in the Enfield train gives the following account of the collision:—Upon looking out of the carriage-window at Hornsey, I was surprised to see the fog, which had previously cleared, excepting the engine, dense and black, the exception being a lamp that glared fiercely by the side of the down-line, where we were. I heard the guard blow his whistle for the driver to steam on towards Wood-green, but the train did not move. Again the guard blew his whistle, and the train, in reply, apparently, but the train still remained stationary, and I concluded either that the driver either could not see the signals or that they were against him. When we had thus waited at Hornsey platform about two or three minutes I remembered that I had not my gun, and, therefore, and I put down the window-sash and listened, intending to leave the train if I heard another on the line in our rear. I did not hear such a train, being slightly deaf, but in about two more minutes I felt a heavy thud against the carriage, and the next moment I was in my compartment, including myself bumping upon each other and upon the sides of the carriage, and my hat was crushed upon my head as flat as an opera-hat—I fear through coming into collision with the face of the driver. Then, after a moment's pause, over two or three gentlemen began to call out in fear, but I remarked that the mischief was done, and that they had better get out and go to the rear to render necessary help. This I did myself, and soon saw the deplorable condition of the train. The partitions of one carriage appear to have been crushed into close contact, the usual spaces of the compartments between having disappeared, and to have fallen into a nearly horizontal position with several men wedged between the partitions. One man called for help and lights, and one said his leg was broken. Several who had alighted from other carriages at once commenced to render assistance, and I, seeing a porter with a red light, begged him to go up the line to stop other trains. I then went to the front, where I might have left Finsbury Park. I believe I never was in a denser fog.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, THURSDAY.

The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Ely and the Hon. Victoria Baillie. The Queen and Princess Beatrice walked and drove this morning with the Empress Eugénie. The Judge Advocate General had an audience of her Majesty yesterday. The Hon. Lady and Miss Biddulph had the honour of dining with the Queen yesterday.

The Duke of Portland arrived in Grosvenor-place on Thursday from Melton Mowbray. The Earl of Airlie, who came from India expressly to attend his father's funeral, will leave on his return to India at the end of the ensuing month, to resume his duties with the 10th Hussars.

Major the Hon. Thomas O'Grady, last surviving son of Standish first Viscount Guillemard, by his wife, Katherine, second daughter of Mr John Thomas Walker, of Castletown, county Limerick, died on the 22d inst. He married in January, 1855, Charlotte Isabel Sophia, daughter of the late Mr. F. L. Ball. The Major, who formerly served in the 71th Highlanders, retired from the army in July, 1846.

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

SUSPECTED NEW CONSPIRACY.

A Dublin correspondent wrote on Thursday night—The absence of Mr. Forster from yesterday's Cabinet Council may be accounted for by the fact that Major Clifford Lloyd, the Special Resident Magistrate for the counties of Clare, Limerick, and Cork, has brought to the knowledge of the authorities at the Castle the existence of a new conspiracy, and a dangerous one at that. This district, Major Lloyd says, is one of the most active Magistries in Ireland, has been able to discover the fullest particulars as to the membership, funds, and objects of this organisation. The news is regarded as very serious at the Castle. An informer has revealed all the plans of this conspiracy, and that they are to be carried out in the 53d Regiment to come to Ireland may have been caused by the information forwarded to the Executive from Limerick and Clare. There is no doubt that money has been distributed for the purpose of the conspiracy, and that a large amount of the extent have been smuggled into the country.

An inquest was held to-day, before Mr. Coroner O'Donnell, on the remains of the man John Lennane, who was shot on Tuesday evening when sitting by the fire-side in his son's house at Breafield. The evidence was given by the witnesses, and the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter, and the apprehension of the criminals was given. The inquiry was adjourned. Lennane had been warned repeatedly to quit his employment, and such was the feeling with which this murder was regarded in the district that up to five o'clock last evening no coffin would be supplied for the interment, till this had been agreed to the parish priest to give his influence to get on.

Mr. John Moyle Mahony, supposed to be a Land League organiser, was arrested in Sackville-street to-day under the Coercion Act and lodged in goal. Mr. Mahony is a native of Cork, where he has been employed as a clerk, but latterly he has come to reside in Dublin, and has been travelling about the provinces at intervals. His lodgings in Brunswick-street were searched for documents. He was taken there last week to visit the suspects confined in the goal there. A fair was being held in the town that day, and in the course of the afternoon he was found that a large number of copies of the "United Irishman" had been distributed amongst the farmers in the market. When apprehended to-day, Mr. Mahony had, it is stated, in his possession some copies of the "United Irishman" and the "Land League" and the "Irishman's" programme, and the membership of the Prisoner's Sustentation Association.

Messrs. McGough and Co., solicitors, have, on behalf of Mrs. Moloney and other members of the Land League, written and addressed a letter to the heads of the Metropolitan Police Department, demanding the authority on which they have been seizing *United Ireland*,

and threatening that if they are not within six days supplied with that information a civil action will be commenced. Only a few days since it was announced publicly by counsel for the Crown that the Lord Lieutenant had decreed the seizure of that paper. The following day the copies of the paper were taken up by vendors through the streets. A consignment of 250 copies of the *Irish World* was taken possession of by the police on its arrival at the North Wall from Liverpool this morning. The copies are dated at New York, New York, and contain exciting articles of reference to Ireland.

There have been several cases of garroting in Dublin during the past week. Respectable persons have been knocked down and their watches torn from them. These attacks are, however, not confined to the lower classes, for when there are large numbers of people in the streets, and the garroters select the busiest thoroughfares for their operations.

Letters received in London from the relatives of Mr. John Dillon, M.P., state that his illness has now taken a form which may result fatally at any moment. Some weeks ago his family offered to remove him to the South of France, and steps were taken with this view, but now Mr. Dillon absolutely refuses to make any condition whatever, the Irish authorities having declined to meet the wishes of his friends in this respect.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—A BUFFER CARRIAGE.

[illegible]

BRANDING AN APPRENTICE.

In the Queen's Bench Division on Wednesday, the case of "Devenish v. Tubb and Maunders" was concluded. It was an action brought by the plaintiff to recover damages for the alleged assault by the plaintiff on the defendant, whom he apprenticed, and Dr. Maunders, for an assault by branding him on several parts of his body with a hot poker after he had been discovered under the bed of the defendant Tubb's daughter, his allegation being that he had gone into the room for a light, and found the defendant Tubb lying in bed, hidden himself under the bed as he was undressed and heard persons coming upstairs. Mr. Lyon summed up the evidence for the defendant Tubb, and Mr. Rowlands for the defendant Maunders. Mr. Harrison replied for the plaintiff, and the case was sent to Justice Denman then summed up. Having referred to the law as bearing on that branch of the case which related to the collateral issue of the alleged violation of the deed of apprenticeship by the defendant Tubb in dismissing the plaintiff from his employment, in satisfaction of the law, the Justice said that, in fact, the jury, his Lordship said that as regarded Dr. Maunders there must be a verdict against him for an assault, but in awarding the damages the jury must take into account not only the conduct of the defendant but that of the plaintiff. He said that if it was established that the defendant Tubb had committed an assault by dragging the plaintiff across the room, they must consider the feelings of a father on finding him under his daughter's bed, and would have to say whether he had done more than was justified as the plaintiff had done more than was justified as the plaintiff had done. As to the "touching up," as it was called, of the plaintiff with the poker, if Tubb took any active part in it it would be one thing, but if he did no more than not preventing it that would be another thing. Assuming that the plaintiff was not notified in dismissing the plaintiff, then would be another thing, if the plaintiff had suffered. Secondly, they would say if Tubb was justified in dismissing the plaintiff under all the circumstances of the case. Thirdly, was Tubb guilty of an aggravated assault on the plaintiff, and, if so, to what damages was the plaintiff entitled. He said that if the jury found Tubb guilty of an assault, for which no justification was pleaded, and on this point he would say that they would be finding a verdict against evidence if they found Maunders had been guilty of no

assault at all. His lordship then went through the more salient points of the evidence on both sides. He said that when they came to consider the question of damages, he was bound to take into account the fact that Miss Tubb's room for a nasty and improper—he would not say an immoral—purpose, or had told the truth when he said he only went there for a light. With regard to the burning, the evidence of the plaintiff was very strong. The evidence of the publicans, Mr. McLaughlin, who was an unbiased witness, the two doctors, and Tubb himself. The case of Tubb having been a party to the administration of the poker was totally different from the case of the doctor, who had been done to a man with a poker, but or not, it was a very wrong thing for a doctor or any person to do, but they might take it into consideration what was the conduct of the doctor himself, and the benefit of that. If he took a red-hot poker and inflicted serious injuries then a Jury should not be too tender in giving damages, but on this point they must regard the medical evidence, and say whether the burns were medical or not. If the doctor had taken a poker just sulcifically heated to get this young man out of the place. The case as against Dr. Maunders in a great measure, if not altogether, turned on the view which the Jury might take on this point, on which there was no evidence of the doctor's medical testimony. If they thought the doctor applied a hot poker to him once only there must be a verdict for something; but if they thought he had very seriously injured the damages should be very substantial. After fifty-five minutes returned into Court, finding that Tubb was justified in dismissing the plaintiff, or otherwise they would have given damages of £25 against him on that issue; and further that he had not been guilty of assault against the plaintiff under the circumstances. With regard to Dr. Maunders, they found he had been guilty of an assault, and assessed the damages against him at £80. Mr. Corrie Grant applied on behalf of Dr. Maunders for a stay of the proceedings, and his lordship would grant it until after the circuit, though he was clearly of opinion that the verdict against him was right. The Foreman of the Jury, in answer to another question by the learned Judge, said that he was not sure whether he had not gone into Miss Tubb's room with any immoral purpose, on which his Lordship said that gave the plaintiff a verdict of £25 on this count, but as the plaintiff had behaved exceedingly wrong in remaining so long in the room, he would give him the costs on this part of the case. He would, however, give costs as against Maunders

A PAUPER'S BODY.—The Sheffield Board of

Guardians held a protracted inquiry into a most remarkable case on Wednesday. A man named John Wood, formerly a draper in easy circumstances in Sheffield, died in a lodging-house in the city, and his widow lived with his wife in lodgings in West-street. On Saturday Wood became exceedingly ill and his life was despaired of. His landlady, who had three other lodgers, was called in to see him, and she found that the other three lodgers might leave. She therefore requested Mrs. Wood to remove her dying husband to the workhouse. A cab was procured and the poor fellow, accompanied by his wife, was driven two miles. There Wood only survived five minutes after being put in bed. The same evening the widow arranged to have her husband buried on Tuesday. On that day she attended with several relatives to the funeral, and on Wednesday morning the corpse. Mrs. Wood accordingly asked that the body might be shown to them. She was informed by those in charge of the Union dead-house that the coffin was screwed up. The lid was removed, and the initials of her husband's initials on a label, was opened, when it was found that the corpse was that of a man of 75, while her husband was only 36. The body was afterwards identified as that of an aged cooper named John Hostie, having been called to the matter, he made inquiry and it was discovered that Wood's body had been taken to the medical school in Stree-street, over two miles away. A class was present, and the body was brought back. The widow insisted before the guardians on Wednesday that the body bore marks of the operator's knife upon the neck, which was swollen level with the chin, and stated that there were nine lancet marks on the right hand side of the neck, and nine on the left on the neck. Mr. Hostie, the governor, said he had been assured by the medical men that nothing had been done to the body, but the widow and her friends solemnly asserted to the contrary. The body was taken to the Union when taken into the dead-house at the work-house, are labelled with the initials of the dead persons. There are usually four assistants in charge, one of these assistants is called the Saturday night assistant, and before he left, according to the statement of the governor, tampered with the labels and thus mixed up the bodies out of spite at his removal. The workhouse authorities advised the guardians for a week to admit of the fullest investigation.

MR. WILLIAM CHAMBERS.—Taking the ap-

portunity of the fiftieth anniversary of the first issue of *Chambers's Journal*, Mr. William Chambers has contributed to the current number of the *Illustrated London News* a series of reminiscences of considerable interest in relation to the progress of cheap publication with which the name of the well-known firm of W. R. Chambers is so closely associated. Mr. Chambers's memories extend back to the period when he was a boy, and he has, he recalls, tells us, distinctly the arrival of the news of the battle of Trafalgar in October, 1805, though he was at that time only five years of age. Among the earliest of his reminiscences is that of the first time he saw a mystery attending upon the publication of "Waverley" in 1814, and the brilliant first appearance of the *Scotsman* newspaper, scarcely two years later. The venerable old man then goes on to give a most interesting and important chapter to his memoir of his brother, Robert Chambers, with which, as will be remembered, some autobiographic writing by the author was associated, and it cannot fail to be read with pleasure by all who are interested in the literary history of the sixty years or more.

SAMUEL CLOWES, THE RELEASED FARMER.—

At the Look Board of Guardians, on Wednesday, the relieving officer reported that the husband of Mrs. Clowes, of Biddulph Moor, who for about sixteen months had been receiving £100, the extension of 6s. per week was granted to the wife and child. The wounding Isaac Brooks, had been released by the Home Secretary, and had returned home. The Chairman (Mr. H. L. Johnson) said, under the circumstances, he had no alternative but to stop the relief. No medical order had been sent in, although the man was suffering from a severe attack of rheumatism, and of the whole circumstances ought to be sent to the Home Secretary in order that he might be the better able to estimate the amount of compensation to which Clowes was entitled, and the better able to do justice to the man.—Mr. Swain said the suggestion of the chairman was a very reasonable one, and that he was sure the feelings of the guardians but give great satisfaction all over the country. No greater miscarriage of justice had occurred in his lifetime, and when they thought of the suffering, poverty, and disgrace to which Johnson and Clowes and their wives and children had been subjected, they were almost sure that the amount of compensation could not be measured in money. They had been reduced from comparative affluence to absolute pauperism, the stigma of which would remain, no matter what sum Sir William Harcourt might award them.—The Chairman said he had made the statement in the hope

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10

The guard of the advancing train, it seems, or if he entered the fog, was unable to see any signal. The first light he beheld was put on at the end of the platform after the engine had been checked. He was obliged to wait to be the distant signal, which, in the end of being, as it was, within sixty yards of the other train, the guard put on his vacuum brake, and brought pressure to bear in checking the train. It was, however, a slight incline towards the north, and the engine brake and without steam, the momentum of the heavily-laden train must have given a rate of nothing less than eight miles an hour at the moment the blow was struck. The effect was that the first jerk up and down, and then to "telescope" the second third-stage carriage. The roof flew off, the compartments were smashed together, the passengers

THE DESPATCH OF TROOPS TO IRELAND.—The 2d Battalion of Border Guards, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Smith, and consisting of 29 officers and 661 men, left the Victoria Barracks, Windsor, on Thursday night, *en route* for Ireland, whither he had been suddenly ordered. The battalion marched to the Great Western Station, London, where the Guards were despatched, by the train of forty six of luggage and several coaches, by two special trains for Milford Haven. Crowds lined the streets of Windsor, and loudly cheered the troops as they passed on their way to the station, which was also thronged. At an early hour on Friday morning the troops were to leave Milford Haven by steamer for Cork, which should be reached by the troops on Saturday. The women and children were left at Windsor. The Castle Guard of Windsor is now furnished by the 2d Battalion Scots Guards.

his speech of Bartolozzi's family," the supplement the biographer of the engraver, Mr. Tuer tells us that Bartolozzi had another named Gaetano, whose eldest daughter, Lucy Elizabeth, married Arthur, the second son of George King's Theatre, and was the grandson of the renouveau of the artist designated by the Parisians *le Dieu de la danse*. "It would be more strictly accurate that the grand-paternal Vestris, who was the friend of the King, was the grandfather of declaring, in a strong and manly manner, *le Dieu de la danse*, *le Dieu de la danse*, *le Dieu de la danse*. He such extravagant terms once in entertainment at the Opera that he was called *le Dieu de la danse*, *le Dieu de la danse*, *le Dieu de la danse*. He was the rapacious dancer that the annual which he demanded exceeded the income of the King allowed his Marshals. Under these circumstances, the reply he used Vestris, "I should advise any man to make his Marshals dance—if they

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—A BUFFER CARRIAGE.
A correspondent writes to the *Daily Telegraph*—“Railway travellers must make up their minds for collisions—at any rate, until the permanent improvement arrives. The safety of human nature is not a matter of thousands of miles, and one accidents that moving vehicles are liable to, are too much for the block system, interlocking, and telegraph signalling, and all the other preventive apparatus that science and engineering has devised. This is the case with sea-going ships, so, is it worth while considering anything more cannot be done to make the inevitable collision less fatal in its effects with the railways? Permit me, first of all, to point out that a large number of railway collisions resemble that which occurred to the journey on Wednesday evening, the essential elements of which are a train running at considerable speed into one standing still. Such accidents are not, as you say, of all shapes, but this is the commonest form of them, and what is the most inevitable consequence? That those in the last carriage receive the whole force of the concussion, are killed or injured, and only maimed and bruised, while in the next carriages the passengers are seriously hurt, and these not nearly so serious as in the next and next there are only a few shakings and joltings. Indeed, nothing is so common in the very worst railway collisions than the fact that the passengers in the first carriage removed a few compartments from those that first receive the undiminished shock. The natural philosophy of the subject is, perhaps not difficult to understand, but the fact is that the force of the concussion of a peril diminishes in a large geometrical ratio as distance from the place of impact increases. Probably the chance of being killed or injured in the last carriage but one is not much less than in the first. The passengers in the former vehicle and its occupants came out of the collision scatheless, and the same result has been seen in scores of instances, several of which might be mentioned here, but I will only refer to one, to give no doubt to the powerful buffers between the carriages, and to the fact that the energy of the impact is largely spent in rending, tearing, and crushing the structure which is the body of the train. It is an infinitely important consideration in these matters, and for every fraction of a second that the shock is parried by breaking and splintering woodwork lives and limbs are being saved. It is going so, does not seem that the last carriage, which is very often the only one, is not a very

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LONDON, JANUARY 28-29, 1882.

M. GAMBETTA'S FALL.

The *Saturday Review* declares M. Gambetta has shown the most conspicuous stage and in the most striking manner that a man may unmake as well as make himself. He is the sole author of his own fall. If it had been a strongly placed enemy on whose overthrow he was bent, he could not have taken more pains to accomplish it. There is a perverse ingenuity about the way in which he has united opposing factions against himself, and contrived that those who are most with him on one point should be most against him on another. Either of M. Gambetta's misadventures would have been serious had it stood alone, but alone either might have been fatal, because it is this that has prevented him from finding effective support on either side of the Chamber. There must be a majority among the deputies who dislike the notion of unlimited revision, involving as it does the mischievous possibility of a constituent Assembly. There may even be a majority who, if the question had been raised in a different way and at a different time, would not have allowed M. Gambetta to go to the country as the advocate of *scrutin de liste* against *scrutin de liste*. But on the first of these points M. Gambetta had contrived to give bitter offence to the advanced Republicans, while he had deprived the moderate Republicans of the one means by which the proposal of unlimited revision could consistently be resisted. Not a year ago revision was esteemed a mere craze of the Extreme Left. If M. Gambetta had made opposition to any revision whatever the foundation of his canvass last summer, there is little doubt that he would have carried the electors with him. By taking his stand on partial revision, he accustomed the country to the idea that the Constitution wanted amendment, and involved himself in a serious difficulty of interpretation. Out of one and the same clause in the Constitution there had to be got an authorisation of partial revision, and a prohibition of complete revision. Unluckily, the article in question did not lead itself at all kindly to this double process. It simply declares that the Chambers shall have the right to declare, either of their own accord or at the request of the President of the Republic, that there is a cause for a revision of the Constitutional laws; and that after the two Chambers shall have come to this resolution they shall unite themselves in National Assembly and proceed to revision. On both the issues upon which he has so perversely chosen to take his stand M. Gambetta has been decisively beaten. Seldom has a conclusion so impotent been reached with so much rapidity by so eminent a man.

We (the *Spectator*) are not strong partisans of M. Gambetta, but we confess a certain sense of dismay at the fall from power. The occurrence betrays the strength of influences in Paris, which are far from favourable either to the existence or the durability of a good Government. The sudden change there has been too dramatic, too unlike that strong movement of deliberate reason which should characterise Republican Government. As to what is to happen next, it is difficult to form even a definite opinion. All depends upon the effect of the overturn upon French electors. M. Grévy, who predicted M. Gambetta's fall, and is probably not displeased by it, will, no doubt, send for M. de Freycinet or M. Léon Say; but if M. Gambetta has not lost his sway with the electors, M. de Freycinet will be no stronger than before. He may, of course, abandon the revision project, and the Chamber, having no alternative man before it, may sustain him for a time; but in a few weeks the deputies will know that the electors doubt them, the groups will form again, and the cry which M. Gambetta's friends will raise for a dissolution, to test the opinion of the country, will be almost irresistible. M. Gambetta has already prepared the bills he had decided to introduce, and as member for Belleville intends to proceed with them. If the Ministry rejects them, they may be defeated, for it is only *scrutin de liste* that M. Gambetta quarrels with the majority; if they accept them they will look ridiculous. M. Gambetta being virtually their master; while if they allow the bills to pass up to the Senate, and reject them, they place that body in the most invidious position. Even if they do nothing, they will be most dangerously situated. They have to control the financial crisis, if they can, to discover some policy in North Africa which the country will bear, to arrive at some *modus vivendi* with England in Egypt—where M. Gambetta's fall takes up the dropped thread of diplomacy everywhere, and to do all this with a sense that the most powerful man in France is watching them with unfriendly eyes, waiting the opportunity to pour upon them a flood of the corrosive eloquence which in Opposition has always been so irresistible. It is scarcely possible that a strong Government should be formed under such circumstances, and at least, a durable one, that France now wants.

The *Economist* thinks the very best we can now look forward to is a succession of weak Governments, with no fixed policy,

no genuine hold upon the people, and no certainty that on the occurrence of a great event there may not be an irresistible cry for M. Gambetta. That is his own belief, and he has hitherto shown that he knows France. If M. Léon Say is persuaded or compelled to accept the portfolio of Finance, he may steer the ship through the coming storm. He really knows the waters he is sailing in, while M. Gambetta did not. The mere impression created through Europe that France does not know her own mind, and insists on a Minister one day to dismiss him the next, must be most prejudicial to all permanent political good order, for which is required, first of all, a tranquil France.

The *Times* says:—For M. Gambetta there is no alternative at present but to retire and wait. His political influence is impaired, but by no means extinguished. His voice will be still potent in the Chamber, and there is no trustworthy sign that his personal influence over the French electorate is impaired. But the Chamber has condemned his Ministry, and he has promptly deferred to its judgment. Whether and how soon he will again be summoned to the responsible conduct of affairs must depend for the most part on his own temper, judgment, and patience. If the country is really with him and is really bent on the policy which he desired to pursue, it is likely enough that his retirement will be only temporary.

The *Daily News* says that M. Gambetta's conduct in forcing on a Ministerial crisis at the present time betrays that defective sense of the responsibility which has been too conspicuously displayed during the past three years. M. Gambetta's first great error, from which all the rest have flowed, was committed two years ago. His true course would have been to take office in January, 1879. His endeavour to enlist in his service the swordsmen and penmen of the Empire, the Marquis de Gallifet and M. Weiss, for example, was a mistake in time if not in principle. The deputies have seen no other way out of the difficulty than that of disembarrassing themselves of him. It may be doubted whether, notwithstanding his many errors, they have chosen the lesser of the two evils. But the chief blame must rest with the man who blundered into the difficulty rather than with the Chamber, which has not been able to do better than blunder out of it.

The *Morning Post* draws an elaborate analogy between Mr. Gladstone and M. Gambetta, and suggests that the tears which have been shed from Radical eyes over the misfortunes of the would-be Dictator of France were set flowing by a disquieting reflection upon what may be in store for the would-be Dictator of England. Nor, perhaps, is the sympathy one of persons merely.

THE FRENCH COMMERCIAL CRISIS.

There is good reason to believe now, the *Bullionist* observes, that the liquidation on the Bourse next week will be carried through without further collapse. A number of rules have been laid down regulative of business which ought to give an opportunity to dealers to pull through their difficulties. One of these is to avoid continuation business for "bulls" and "bears" (that is, all speculative business), and to fix the price in favour of the former. In the meantime, the prices of many securities dealt in are merely nominal. Take Union Générale shares, for example; these cannot possibly be worth 500 francs (the nominal value), yet they are dealt in at 1,100 francs. The reason of this is that every one who has money he would get them at a very low price, but there are very few people who want them, and the price quoted is the speculative price. Although the aspect is more tranquil, and we hope the worst is over, we must conclude that the recovery is far from complete. There are in Paris two institutions for the sale and purchase of stocks and shares—the Parquet, the number of members of which (Agents de Change) is only sixty; and the Cote, where all sorts of securities are dealt in. There are in Paris by all sorts of brokers who have not gained an entrance to the more aristocratic Parquet. The arrangements providing for the payment of the "differences" of the Agents de Change refer to the latter; but what is to become of the Cote where dealings in all securities, good, bad, and indifferent, take place? Certain prices are to be fixed, at which prices will be made up, and everything will be settled on that basis, but what afterwards? Those who have securities will be glad to get rid of them, but when it is found impossible to get purchasers, will not doubts begin to prevail regarding even good securities? And if that feeling extend, we greatly fear that worse is to come yet than anything we have witnessed. What has prevented the Parquet from extending to what London came to its aid and provided a market for the enormous masses of Egyptian, Spanish, and other foreign stocks that were offered. Other markets have been in the habit of taking the cue from Paris, and as Paris was no longer buyer, there was no other market for sellers but London.

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.

The situation in Europe at the present time, the *Statist* says, is full of the elements of danger and confusion. The same thing, no doubt, could have been said with equal truth any time for the last seven years, and as during that period a general conflict has been averted, we may venture to hope that 1882 will also be allowed to pass without warfare. Still, it would be unwise to shut our eyes to the perils by which we are confronted:—In fact, at the present time there is no single great power in Europe which has not some difficulty that may at any moment lead to war. To begin with ourselves, we have entered into partnership with France to maintain a joint protectorate over Egypt—that is, over a country which is still a part of the Ottoman Empire, and, therefore, is involved in all the complications of the Eastern Question. As if we had not enough of embarrassment in this bare fact, both we ourselves and France have managed to alienate from us the Sultan, through whom alone we could control Egypt without the exertion of actual force. In her turn, France has still greater difficulties. She is not only a partner with us in all the entanglements of the Egyptian Protectorate; she has also her Tunis quarrel still upon her hands. At home, again, the Chamber is tormented by a House panic, and, to add to all her embarrassments, she has now upon her hands a Ministerial Crisis. Looking across the Rhine, we see Prince Bismarck apparently rhyming

a quarrel with the Reichstag. It would be waste of time to refer to the internal condition of Russia and the danger which it menaces the rest of Europe. Russia is equally anxious to speak of the condition of Turkey. But looking at Austria, we find her confronted with a rising in Dalmatia and the Herzegovina. We cannot forget that it was almost in the same spot that the insurrection began which finally brought out the Serbian War, and the Russian invasion of Turkey. We have no reason to suppose that Prince Bismarck is less resolved than hitherto to defend Austria, and if Germany will support Austria, she can also command the assistance of both Italy and Turkey. Even supposing, then, that Russia could count upon the alliance of France, France and Russia combined would have against them Germany, Austria, Italy, and Turkey, and it seems incredible that any man making pretension to be a statesman should rush into a quarrel of this kind, unprovoked. Yet, if Russia does not want to re-open the Eastern Question, why should she encourage insurrection in the Herzegovina? And, if she has not been stirring up the insurrection, why, whence does the support of the movement come? But whatever the explanation may be, the state of the Balkan Peninsula is certainly disquieting, and altogether there is so much obscurity respecting the relations of the Continental Powers to one another, and re-peeling the origin of many of the difficulties with which we are confronted, that there can be no wonder at the anxiety which prevails throughout Europe respecting the outlook at the present moment.

THE NORTH RIDING ELECTION.

The *Saturday Review* suggests that, as the English landholders have recently been warned not to be too confident that their position is unassailable, they might be invited in a similar spirit not to misread the lessons of the North Riding election. Their victory has been a narrow one, and has been obtained at the price of significant concessions. Fortunately for their party, the lapse of their candidate into an antiquated protectionism appears to have been wholly gratuitous. The electors were offered a tax on bread, but attached no kind of importance to it. Nothing could have been more unfortunate than the last round of the present crisis than that they should, in defending their interests, be supposed to be fighting for protection. For on the ground of protection they must necessarily be beaten at every step in argument; while it is by sheer argument, by plain, clear, triumphant, reasonable, that would protectors of land reform must and will be successfully overthrown. The *Spectator*, while "believing the ultimate triumph of Liberalism to be as certain as the victory of good over evil," thinks the Government would do well to turn their adopted course all the more zealously for this rebuff. Although most unfortunate in its immediate consequences, the defeat is not one of the kind which makes victors see as the vanquished see. In the next week government is fairly before the people as a measure, and not as a promise, the defeat may be made a victory, for it is only by degrees that any class unaccustomed to notice from above wakes up to the perception that reform in its interests is at last approaching.

FAILURES IN IRELAND.

A Dublin correspondent writes on Saturday night:—The great topic of conversation in the city to-day is the enormous failures over the Mexican stocks which have occurred in Dublin. To-day another stockbroking firm has failed, it is stated, and the liquidation of the same has been reported to be over those of the firm which procured the same order upon Friday. It is generally believed that the French crisis, to which all the failures are attributed, will not end at the two firms already announced. Two or three more are anticipated to go to the wall unless assistance is rendered. Apart from the stockbroking business, failures in foundry, building, and other businesses are announced. The liabilities in the first stockbroking failure are announced at £200,000, and in the second at £100,000. In the case of the latter, the liabilities of the firm are mentioned at £50,000, and in the other £15,000. These failures have created a great panic in the city, and political conversation is completely obliterated. The shopkeepers of Dublin are endeavouring to get their cash into the banks, and the banks, as their creditors are in the majority of cases the landlords, whose rents are being reduced, there is no possibility of any settlement for months. Business, accordingly, in Dublin in nearly every branch is at the lowest ebb.

MUSIC.

Mr. Carl Rosa, while careful to maintain the reputation of his company by representing the best works of foreign composers, classic and modern, has, says the *Observer*, consistently shown himself anxious to present to English concertgoers *Pauline* has been unavoidably withdrawn from the programme of the current season, owing to the temporary indisposition of Mr. Frederic Cowen. The *Veiled Prophet of Khorasan*, by Mr. C. Villiers Stanford, would have been produced, but for difficulties over which Mr. Rosa had no control. Under these circumstances, he has given a graceful recognition of English art in the production, on Saturday night, of *Moro*; or, *The Painter of Antwerp*, an English version by Mr. W. A. Barrett of the opera *Pittore e Duce*, originally produced at Trieste in the year 1851. The plot of the opera is highly interesting, and the action takes place at Antwerp towards the conclusion of the cruel and desperate rule of the Duke of Alva over the Netherlands. Previous to the time at which the opera is supposed to commence, Antonio Moro (the "Painter of Antwerp") had been the means of saving a young lady of noble family, Olivia Campaña, from an early death by drowning. A mutual attachment sprang up between the two young people, and they were privately betrothed. The father of Olivia, having incurred the censure of the Spanish Government by favouring the cause of the Low Countries, had endeavoured to avoid punishment by bringing about the union of Olivia with Count Arnanhoe, one of the supporters of the severe measures adopted by the Duke of Alva. Olivia, distracted between the memory of Antonio, her love for her father, and her hatred of her husband, retires into a convent, from whence she causes to be spread abroad the news of her death. The opera is preceded by a prologue, in which is shown the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the Citadel at Antwerp. This is celebrated with all possible pomp and magnificence. Antonio Moro is busy making sketches for the picture of the event. A veiled female in the crowd gives him a letter. When the pompous ceremony is concluded, he finds that the packet contains a copy of the inscription on the tomb of Olivia. He then resolves to devote himself to art alone; all hope of earthly love being blighted. While he is musing, the Duke requests him to attend at the Council Meeting to paint the portrait of one of the community of Nuns who have been charged with conspiring against the State. The judges have condemned all the Nuns to death. The Duke exercises his prerogative, and pardons all, except one whose beauty has touched his heart, and she is, as he states, to suffer for all. It is her portrait Antonio is to paint. The chamber is dark, and he is unable to exercise his art. He obstinately retains her veil. This the Duke rudely tears off, and Antonio discovers his long-lost Olivia. He pleads for her pardon, and is denied. He refuses to degrade his

art, and casts his pencils on the ground. The Duke appears to relent, and, reversing the sentence of the judges, suffers all to depart freely. The lovers are equally united. The Duke, not knowing that Olivia's husband is dead, hopes to share her favour; and when the lovers are making preparations for departure to Italy, finds his way, disguised, to the lonely room in the inn where she is waiting. Supposing him to be Antonio, he rushes into his arms, but, discovering her mistake, repulses him with scorn. When Antonio returns, and learns the position affairs have taken, he challenges the Duke to mortal combat. On his refusing to fight, Antonio, maddened with jealous rage, casts himself upon his would-be rival, to slay him. At this moment Vargas appears, and announces the Ambassadors charged with the Duke's recall. They also bear papers confirming the news of the death of Arnanhoe while in exile; and the lovers, free at last from persecution and trouble, look forward with happiness to the prospect of future joys.

The music is of the Italian school, and more remarkable for fertility of melody than for constructive power. The prologue introduced with a march and chorus in E flat. No. 2, a quartet with chorus in G ("As a token"), is melodious and grandiose, and elicited much applause. No. 3, a Concerted Piece in C major, formed an ineffective conclusion to the Prologue, which originally concluded with a ballet. Act 1 opens with Moro's romance "Is it then in vain?" a melodious number in C major, modulating into various keys. The succeeding "Chorus of Students" is bold and effective. No. 5, the Chorus, "Father on High," accompanied throughout by the organ, is a well written imitation of the modern rather than of the ancient style of ecclesiastical music. Olivia's cantabile, "As by the river," is beautiful, but the impulsive act concludes with No. 7, a finale after the early style of Verdi. In this scene occurs a long duet in A major ("In Misfortune") for Olivia and Alva. The allegro of the duet, tuneful but slightly, is unsuitable to the dramatic situation. A duet occurs. Act 2 opens with Moro's air in E flat, 3-4, "Farwell ye thoughts of joy," a commonplace but tuneful solo, as well sung by Mr. Barton McGuckin, who an encore was demanded; Alva's solo, in the same key and time, was equally good. The scene concludes with a duet for Olivia and Alva, "Dance Espagnole." No. 12, the duet for Olivia and Moro, commences with an andante in A flat 3-4 ("Once more the sunny past"), leading to an allegro in F ("Ah, yes, my dearest"), written in conventional form, and rendered with more animation and dramatic effect by the baritone. On his gondola so lonely" (A flat, 6-8), a graceful and attractive melody, which can hardly fail to become popular. Admirably sung by Mr. McGuckin, it was enthusiastically received. No. 15, the trio between Olivia, Moro, and Alva, was a fine trio sung in a somewhat similar situation at the end of the first act of *Il Trovatore*. The opera concludes with a waltz in E flat, melodious and effective, but abounding in difficulties, which were ably surmounted by Mrs. Villiers.

The opera had been carefully rehearsed under the able direction of Mr. Carl Rosa, who on Saturday night was greeted with enthusiastic and prolonged cheering, when he took his place at the conductor's desk. The *mise en scene* was good, and Mme. Valletta for whom an apology was made, on the ground of her illness, and who was compelled to omit the scene of Act 3, Mr. McGuckin, and Mr. Groat sang admirably throughout the opera. Valuable aid was also given by Miss Groat, Warwick, and other artists, by whom minor roles were filled, and the opera was received with every sign of gratification by the crowded audience. Whether it will secure a permanent place in the operatic repertory is doubtful, but the name of the composer commands for respectful attention. Framed on early Italian models, it exhibits their merits and defects, being constantly melodious, but seldom really dramatic. Its tunefulness will probably render it popular with a large class of amateurs, and the leading singers are likely to become well known, especially the Baritone in Act 3. As a work of art, *Moro* fails to satisfy the requirements of modern taste, but Mr. Carl Rosa must be thanked for giving us an opportunity of hearing it.

At the last Monday Popular Concert an interesting novelty was presented in an Ottet, by Svendsen, a Norwegian composer, whose works have attracted the favourable notice of musicians in every part of Europe. The Ottet can scarcely be judged with fairness on a single hearing; but it must be admitted that it is a masterly work, containing many original ideas, but too diffusely elaborated. An early repetition will be welcomed. The Ottet can scarcely be judged with fairness on a single hearing; but it must be admitted that it is a masterly work, containing many original ideas, but too diffusely elaborated. An early repetition will be welcomed. The Ottet can scarcely be judged with fairness on a single hearing; but it must be admitted that it is a masterly work, containing many original ideas, but too diffusely elaborated. An early repetition will be welcomed.

Mr. Sims Reeves duly appeared at his first concert of "operatic, national, and miscellaneous music," on Tuesday, at St. James's Hall, and sang two songs. The concert was supported by several well-known vocalists and the Anemic Union, an instrumental body, consisting of Mr. H. Nicholson, flute; Mr. Malsch, oboe; Mr. Lazarus, clarinet; Mr. Mann, horn; Mr. Wotton, bassoon; and Mr. Sidney Naylor, pianoforte.

THE DRAMA.

A pretty little play by Mr. Henry Jones, whose comedietta *A Clerical Error*, is pleasantly remembered by those who saw it at the Court, now precedes *The Cynic* at the Globe Theatre. Its motive is slight, but not too slight for a trifle such as *A Bell of Roses*; its characterisation is decidedly happy; its dialogue is bright, and, for the most part, natural. The hero is a young doctor—Mr. Dalsyn—who, whilst retained as medical attendant to a wealthy and fanciful invalid named Vellacott, finds time to flirt a good deal with his crusty employer's pretty daughter. Dalsyn knows that he has no business to do anything of the kind, inasmuch as he has no home nor settled income to offer to Dora Vellacott. Old Vellacott's dyspepsia makes him no domesticating and ruin to his fortune, and he is, therefore, not to be pardoned for disregarding his wishes; but the young man fully intends to behave honourably in the matter, and breaks down in his good resolution only on finding that Dora herself believes him to have gone further than he intended. He accepts his rather brutal dismissal with dignity, and is about to leave, when his intractable patient's mood suddenly alters. The change is brought about by one of those chance discoveries so useful on the stage. It appears that the doctor, well-to-do as he is, has a rather hot temper, and has returned to see his sweetheart, and to earn his father's forgiveness. The lad recognises in Dr. Dalsyn a good Samaritan

who saved his life at serious risk of his own. The result of the recognition is inevitable. The old man's heart, already softened towards his children, cannot remain hard against his son's benefactor, and a *bell of roses* ensues, as such pieces always do, with the prospect of a couple of marriages, and the suggested improvement of a very disagreeable temper. The interpretation of Mr. Jones's comedietta leaves very little to be desired. Mr. A. Wood, a clever actor, who seldom seems to get the chance of distinction which he deserves, gives real freshness and humour to his study of irascibility in Mr. Vellacott the elder. He plays throughout with admirable consistency and point. Mr. Dacre as the medical lover bears himself not only in a manly fashion, but a great deal more naturally than he is wont to do. These two, with Messrs. Hamilton and Medwin, Miss Gildrey and Miss Medwin in minor parts, helped on Thursday last to make *A Bell of Roses* a decided success.—*Observer*.

Prosperity continues to attend the majority of our metropolitan managers, and at several theatres it still remains necessary to book places beforehand. With the exception of the *foyer* on Wednesday night, the weather throughout the month has been favourable to places of amusement, and the receipts during the holiday period have accordingly been considerably in excess of former years. But few changes of programme have been made. A morning performance of the *She Stoops to Conquer* was repeated at the Haymarket on Thursday. On Wednesday evening Mr. G. Sims's popular comedy of *The Half-way House* was presented at the Vaudeville for the twentieth time.

The admirers of Mr. Henry Forrester will be sorry to hear that he is at present suffering from severe illness, which has compelled him to postpone his more immediate engagements. The popular actor had just completed some readings in Scotland when he was first attacked, but has been able to return home to London, where he has the advantage of the best medical advice.

One-act plays called *My Little Girl*, adapted by Mr. Dion G. Boucicault from Messrs. Besant and Rice's novel of the same name, with their permission, has been accepted by the Court management, and will be produced in February. This being the younger daughter's first attempt at dramatic composition will doubtless excite considerable interest.

Mr. Edward Rose's little piece *The Marble Arch*, recently announced for representation, was postponed because of the illness and death of Mrs. Osborne—Miss Eva Siddons plays it. Now, however, it is definitely fixed for Thursday, February 23, the anniversary of the first performance of *The Colonel*.

Mr. Gunn and Mr. Boucicault have arranged to give a season of national dramas in Dublin, commencing at Easter next year. If it prove the important feature they anticipate it will be continued every year at the same time.

Mr. and Mrs. Lablache (Miss Emerson) have been engaged by Mrs. Scott-Siddons to support her on her tour, commencing February 27th. Mr. Lablache will play the parts he played with Mrs. Siddons in her last tour in America, viz., Orlando, Romeo, Macbeth, etc.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by Lady Abercromby; and her Majesty went out with Princess Beatrice this morning. Lieutenant Colonel White, C.B., V.C. (Gordon Highlanders), arrived at Osborne yesterday, and was received by the Queen on his return from India, and afterwards had the honour of dining with her Majesty. The Hon. Ethel Cadogan has succeeded the Hon. Victoria Baillie as Maid of Honour in Waiting.

Mr. Chalmers-Lacour had a dinner party at the French Embassy, Albert-gate, on Friday evening. His Excellency's guests included the Marquis de Launay, the Russian Ambassador, the Marquis de la Roche, the Portuguese Minister and Mme. d'Antas, Lord and Lady Reay, the Right Hon. Sir William and Lady Harcourt, the Right Hon. Hugh and Mrs. Childers, Sir Frederick and Lady Pollock, Sir Julian and Lady Pauncefote, the President of the Royal Society and Mrs. Spottiswoode, Count and Countess d'Aunay, M. Larivière, Lieut.-Col. Deschamps, and Mr. H. Vincent.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Hertford gave a small party at Regent Hall, Alcester, including Lady Georgiana Drummond, Mr. H. and Lady Horatia Erskine, Colonel and Lady Florence Drummond, Major Osborne Barnett, and Mr. J. Erskine.

Lord and Lady Thurlow have arrived in Chesham-place for the season. Sir W. Welby-Gregory, M.P. for South Lincolnshire, has gone to Luxor. It is expected that the hon. baronet will remain in Egypt until March.

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CAMBRIDGE MATHEMATICAL TRIPOS.

There was (a Cambridge correspondent says) one of the largest assemblies ever known in the Senate House on Saturday morning to witness the conferment of the degrees on those who had passed the late Mathematical Tripos examination, and were entitled to "honours" as a consequence. The Vice-Chancellor, the Rev. Dr. Porter, presided. The great interest exhibited was doubtless due to the fact of the late examination being the last under the old system, and the new system of the degree conferred on the last of the Senior Wranglers. Mr. Herman, of Trinity, came in for a storm of applause, and those who had distinguished themselves in athletics or in the cricket-field or on the river were vociferously cheered. As the "wooden spoon" will disappear with the distinction of Senior Wrangler, it was thought fit that the trophy this year should be an unusually large one. It was, with the handle, about five feet long, and was gorgeously emblazoned with the arms of the recipient, and on one side had a brilliant sun flower and on the other the words "Quite too utter." It was lowered in due form from the galleries, and accepted by the "spoon" below in good part, his good-humour eliciting loud cheers. At the conclusion of the ceremony the assembly dispersed in high good-humour.

THE STOLEN PICTURE.—We understand that the "Mona Lisa" of the Meadows was recovered through information given by the man who stole the painting, to which he had access as a workman engaged in the picture gallery, and who now stands committed upon another charge. He will probably receive the £300 reward offered for the recovery of the work.—*Globe*.

MR. DILLON.—The *Freeman's Journal* publishes a letter from the brother of Mr. John Dillon, M.P., stating that the suspect member for Tipperary has been unwell, but the accounts given of the bad state of his health are exaggerations.

THE MISGRANTING OF JUSTICE IN STAFFORD.—The *Staffordshire Advertiser* says it is authorized to state that the Home Secretary will recommend a grant of £500 each to the two men, Johnson and Clowes, lately released from gaol.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY AT LADY DOWNHIRE'S.—The Berkshire police have received information of a daring burglary which has been committed at the residence of the Marchioness of Downshire, Easthampton, near Reading. The burglars obtained two ladders from the farm buildings, tied them together, and so reached the window of one of the front bed chambers. When in the room the burglars secured a door by screwing a piece of board upon it and the door-post. The room was searched, but nothing was taken, the object of the burglars undoubtedly being to obtain her ladyship's jewels. They had, however, not entered the Marchioness's chamber, and it is conjectured that they were disturbed, no other room having been entered. A man was seen running from the direction of the mansion.

THE CONSERVATIVES AND MR. BRADLAUGH.—A most urgent three-lined whip has been issued to the Conservative members requesting their attendance in the House of Commons on the 7th of February, at 4 p.m., Mr. Bradlaugh having intimated his intention of presenting himself at that hour to take the oath. The members are asked to sustain a motion in opposition thereto, which will be brought forward by Sir Stafford Northcote.

MR. BRIGHT AND IRELAND.—Mr. Bright, writing to the Rev. A. Starkey, of Coventry, says, with reference to the relations between England and Ireland:—"I am afraid we must wait long before we are enabled to see much desire—a cordial union and friendship between the two countries. The intelligent classes—the wealthy and the Protestants—are friendly; but there is material for agitation and disturbance of which evil and ambitious men make use for their own distinct and advantage. I believe, however, a better time is before us."

THE CLOTURE.—The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* says that there is reason to believe that the Cabinet are of opinion that the most acceptable form of provision could be made for closing debates in the House of Commons would be by a division of responsibility between the Speaker and the House, and it is probable the matter will be arranged in this way—that when it shall appear to the Speaker that a debate is to be the general sense of the House that the question under discussion he now put, the Speaker must forthwith put the question, and let be carried by a majority of the House. The main question previously under debate will at once be put from the chair. This is substantially the rule which the Speaker himself proposed last year, and it is not believed that Sir Stafford Northcote would object to it. The difficulty, however, is to secure that a simple majority should be sufficient to close the debate.

STOPPING A PRIZE FIGHT.—Twice during the past week an attempt has been made to carry out a prize fight in the neighbourhood of Bootle, near Liverpool, and on Thursday the police were engaged in preventing the violence of the police. The fight had been arranged in a tavern in Derby-road, and the principals, although amateurs, are looked upon as the champions of Bootle borough and Bootle village respectively. A few days ago the intended fight was prevented by the police meeting in the goal-fields, and were stripped for the encounter, when the police surprised them and they fled. On Thursday night it was attempted to bring the affair off under cover of darkness, and large numbers of the police were engaged in preventing the violence of the police. The fight had been arranged in a tavern in Derby-road, and the principals, although amateurs, are looked upon as the champions of Bootle borough and Bootle village respectively. A few days ago the intended fight was prevented by the police meeting in the goal-fields, and were stripped for the encounter, when the police surprised them and they fled. On Thursday night it was attempted to bring the affair off under cover of darkness, and large numbers of the police were engaged in preventing the violence of the police.

SINISTER RATINGS IN THE ARMY AND NAVY.—Speaking at Scarborough on Saturday, Mr. Cairne, M.P., said, referring to his proposal to abolish strip ratings in the army and navy, that when the army was placed under the control of a Minister thoroughly responsible to Parliament, instead of under the control of an irresponsible scion of Royalty, they might have an army something like what it ought to be, and be able to get their fighting material without pot-houses inside barracks.

THE DRAMATIC CRITICS AND THE SAFETY OF THEATRES.—At an adjourned meeting of dramatic critics the following resolutions were unanimously carried:—"That need exist for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the state of theatres and places of public amusement and meeting, especially as regards the safety of the public." "That the metropolitan managers be requested to support the application for a Royal Commission for such purpose." "That, seeing that the appointment of a Royal Commission and the carrying into execution of its decisions involve necessarily a long delay, and that meanwhile the streets, headed by regard to several London theatres is imperatively called for, prompt application is requisite of such powers as are possessed by the Lord Chamberlain, the Board of Works, or any authority capable of dealing with such subjects."

RETURN OF STOLEN MONEY.—A remarkable incident has just occurred at Bideford. A woman named Gould, a mason's wife, has at the last two quarter sessions been charged with stealing 150 sovereigns from a lodger, a Wesleyan local preacher named Wicketts. At the Michaelmas sessions the jury disagreed, and the prisoner was discharged, but at the last sessions the case was re-heard, and Gould was acquitted. At midnight on Thursday the Rev. Mark Symons, Wesleyan minister, had a rusty tin box dropped in the letter-box, tied in a handkerchief, sealed, and addressed to Wicketts. When opened it was found to contain seventy Australian sovereigns, and nearly all of Wicketts' lost money consisted of Australian gold.

THE SALVATION ARMY.—The *Sheffield Post*.—At the Sheffield Town Hall, on Friday, Arthur Henry Wollen, cutter, was charged with causing bodily harm to "Lieutenant" Emmerson Davison, a member of the Salvation Army, on the 10th inst. On that day "General" Booth and the Army went in procession through the streets, headed by "Lieutenant" Davison, who wore a scarlet uniform. The defendant was committed to the sessions for trial, but allowed bail. The bench afterwards heard summonses against five other persons charged with throwing stones on the occasion of the procession. Two were fined 40s. and costs, two 20s. and costs, and one 1s. and costs. The Mayor stated that in any future cases of a similar description the offenders would be sent to prison without the option of a fine.

AN EXTRAORDINARY SCENE AT A FUNERAL.—An extraordinary and disgraceful scene was witnessed at a funeral at Leicester on Friday afternoon. The wife of a man living in the north of the town had died, and it was alleged by the neighbours that the husband had been visiting places of amusement with another woman while his wife was lying dead. This woman, on arriving to keep the house while the funeral took place, was turned out by the man's brother-in-law, and she was then seized by a large crowd, pelted with ruddle, flour, and black tea, and her clothes were torn to shreds. The crowd booed the husband as he left for the funeral, and on his return a number of policemen had to protect him from personal violence.

A LEGAL SCANDAL.—Mr. Justice Kay on Saturday made some observations on the institution of an administration action, where the only debt against the estate was a sum of £49. The sum of £283 in court was not sufficient to pay the costs of the proceedings, which have been going on since 1871. His lordship described it as a "shocking scandal," and directed the costs to be very carefully taxed, stating that he intended that the court should have its hands over the money until he knew what the costs were.

